

THE GATEWAY

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LET ME GET SOME ACTION FROM THE BACK SECTION Members of Calgary's Funky Monks B-boy crew dished out some flavour while competing in "Divided by Style" this past Saturday.

Juicy accusations surface of SU bylaw violations

COSANNA PRESTON
Senior News Editor

A recent decision by the Students' Union Executive to take over the juice bar at SUB has sparked concern and caused former business councillor Steve Smith to file a procedural complaint accusing the Executive of overstepping its authority.

The juice bar, now known as Juicy, came under SU temporary operation when the Executive evicted the previous tenant on 2 March, which had recently switched its name from Juicy Fare to Juicy Go.

The name change occurred when Juicy Fare, a national franchise, declared bankruptcy and the local franchise owner reopened the location as an independent business. However, the problems of Juicy Fare did not leave with the name and after seeking legal advice, the SU Executive decided to evict the tenant.

Steve Smith's complaint, filed with the SU's Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board, essentially the court of the SU, is concerned with the action taken to begin a new business, Juicy, after the eviction.

While he acknowledges that the eviction was within the Executive's authority, he argued that Students' Council should have been consulted in order to open a new business.

"It's my submission that, based on

the fact that Council has not approved of its operation, the Students' Union Executive does not have the authority to operate [Juicy]," said Steve Smith noting that according to his interpretation of the SU bylaws, the Executive is not permitted to undertake decisions that are not accounted for in the approved budget.

However, SU President Jordan Blatz argued that the SU budget is simply the best forecast of events for the upcoming year and, since the operation of Juicy could not be predicted, Council had no way of including this as a budget line. As such, Blatz argued that when the eviction occurred, the SU was placed in a unique position and acted accordingly.

"Frankly, I think it was the most prudent business decision we could have made given the circumstances," said Bill Smith, the SU's general manager.

"I don't think there was any disagreement on Council that the right course of action had been followed. ... I understand the complaint but I also understand the decision," he added, noting the decision was challenged on procedural grounds and not on the basis of right or wrong.

Speaking on behalf of the Executive Committee at the DIE Board hearing, Blatz and Bill Smith, admitted Council should have been consulted.

PLEASE SEE JUICY • PAGE 3

Hoops Bears head to national championships

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

As the Golden Bears basketball team put the wraps on their final practice of the season in the Main Gym on Tuesday, their full arsenal of weapons was on display. Posts Phil Sudol and Scott Gordon battled each other in the low block in a one-on-one drill, guards Dean Whalen, Mike Melnychuk and Jamie Hudson rained three-point field goals with ease, while reserve Richard Bates had to settle for throwing dunks down on his teammates, since the Bears won't face any competition until tomorrow.

After winning the Canada West division almost two weeks ago, the Bears were awarded the fifth seed in the upcoming national champion-

ships this weekend in Halifax. While being the highest-ranked team in the tournament from the west, the Bears won't reap the benefits of a high seeding. Their first-round opponents will be last year's silver-medal winners, the St Francis Xavier X-Men, a team that has spent most of the season as the nation's second-ranked squad.

Playing the underdog is something that the Bears have grown used to, and seems to be something they enjoy. "Right now I don't think anyone in the country can stop us," Melnychuk said.

"I don't think anyone wants to play us because I think we're the hottest team in the country. We're playing with the most passion, the most heart and the most desire. I think we have the country by storm."

PLEASE SEE HOOPS • PAGE 23

Students to demonstrate life of forced silence

LGBTQ and allies to participate in U of A's Day of Silence on Friday

KARI CHAN
News Writer

The U of A campus will be a little quieter tomorrow as the annual Day of Silence gets underway.

From 9am until 3pm, students participating will remain silent in protest of the prejudice faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) people and their supporters.

"The day lets people feel what it's like to live in silence, to imagine what it would be like to live in a world where [you] weren't accepted. Living a life of pretend is draining, especially when you have to maintain the lie at home, with friends, and at work," said AJ Krause, Day of Silence coordinator and member of SIDERITE, the LGBTQ group for students in University of Alberta residences.

PLEASE SEE LGBTQ • PAGE 2



SILENCE! Amanda Hostland demonstrates the finale to the Day of Silence.

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Drug war woes

Want to remove the problems with drugs? Just legalize them, says Tim Pepin today in Opinion

OPINION, PAGE 11



Live from Tel Aviv

David Weatherall travelled to Israel to see the situation there for himself. Read what he saw in today's feature.

FEATURE, PAGE 14

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Students join 1900 schools in Day of Silence demonstration

This year's Day of Silence marks the third annual protest by LGBTQ and allies at the U of A

LGBTQ+ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students who choose not to speak will hand out speaking cards indicating their participation in the protest.

At the event's close, participants will gather in Quad and scream as loud as they can, to signal an end to the silence.

The U of A will be following over 1900 universities, high schools and middle schools across the United States who also participate in the Day of Silence. The event was initiated by the University of Virginia in 1996, and was brought to the U of A two years ago after the SIDERITE coordinator at

the time was the victim of homophobic harassment.

"People need to see that you can't be so homo-negative all the time; you can't just only hold this one view and be down on a specific group of people," asserted Amanda Hostland, SIDERITE Day of Silence public relations coordinator.

Organizers hope to see a dramatic increase in participants like the one held a year ago. Over 100 people gathered at Quad that year, up from the 30 who were there the first year the Day of Silence was held.

"People need to see that you can't be so homo-negative all the time; you can't just only hold this one view and be down on a specific group of people."

**AMANDA HOSTLAND,
DAY OF SILENCE
PUBLIC-RELATIONS COORDINATOR**

In spite of the increased attention in the media surrounding gay marriage, this year's event has drawn no controversy.

However, Hostland understands that some are opposed to what the Day of Silence promotes.

"Everyone's entitled to their own opinion and it's perfectly okay for them to not agree with this type of event," she said.

"What we are trying to do is to raise some awareness that the issue is here, [that] there are people on campus who are like this and they want to be heard the same as everyone else."

COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Ross Prusakowski

Students' Council usually meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22 March.

STUDENTS OVERPAYING MORTGAGE

Much like the NHL season, Tuesday's meeting of Students' Council was going

nowhere fast because a large number of councilors were absent. Council regulars quorum when numerous councilors returned from a meeting required for candidates running in next week's councilor elections.

While Council was awaiting the return of the missing councilors, President Jordan Blatz disclosed that it had come to the attention of the Students' Union that the University Health Services fee should have ceased being collected some time ago.

This is because the SU believes that the mortgage for the Health Services Centre, for which the fee was implemented, has been paid off.

Blatz was leery of discussing ex-

camera how much students may have overpaid and when exactly the mortgage had been paid off, because the SU had yet to view the financial statements regarding the issue. Blatz also informed Council that in conjunction with Graduate Students' Association President Alexis Pepin, he had spoken to Provost Dr Carl Amrein and informed him of their concerns with the fee's collection.

According to Blatz, the GSA and the SU are pushing the University to eliminate the fee for September 2005, fully disclose how much was overpaid, when the mortgage was paid off, and how it will refund the excess amount to students.

OTHER NOTES:

• Blatz verbally congratulated engineering councilor and President-elect Graham Lettier for his victory in the SU Executive elections.

Blatz commented that he was "more than confident" that [Lettier] would do a damn good job, and also urged those who lost in the election to remain involved in the Students' Union.

• An in-camera session that lasted nearly an hour at the beginning of the meeting forced Council to scramble to deal with the remainder of the legislation on their agenda.

STREETERS

The Students' Union has been keeping SUB open 24 hours this semester as part of a pilot project.

Have you taken advantage of the 24-hour SUB space?



Neville Wright
Phys Ed III



Gardiner
McCarthy
Business II



Linda Hoang
Phys Ed I



Jen Rosychuk
Immunology and
Infection III

I was doing track, so I haven't been here. But I think it's a good idea, even if I haven't had the chance to take advantage of it.

No, but I did when they kept it open during exam weeks. I think it's a good idea; SUB is a good environment and it's better to study in than some of the other buildings on campus that are really old.

Not really. I usually like to get home earlier. [But] if I decided I wanted to stay because I had a midterm the next morning, it's something I could do.

No. I don't live on campus and I study at home, and it's about half an hour away, so I don't need to use it.

Compiled and photographed by Paul Owen and Caitlin Crawshaw



U of C outsources food services

NICOLE TOMLINSON
News Writer

Three hundred public employees at the University of Calgary face an uncertain future as a private food services company prepares to take charge or in.

Chartwells, a division of a multinational corporation called Compas, which provides food services around the world, has been contracted by the U of C administration.

Current food-service staff at the U of C, who are presently University employees, will have an opportunity to be interviewed and considered for employment by Chartwells, but they have no guarantee that the company will hire them.

"All food services are being contracted out, so all of our staff are getting laid off. Chartwells will hire some of them, but not others," explained Albi Sole, president of the Alberta Union of Public Employees Local 52.

U of C Vice-President (Finance and Services) Mike McAdam explained that although the University cares about the welfare of its employees, contracting out to Chartwells is a necessary step in improving the quality of the food and choice of food on campus.

"A lot of research was done, and what we found is that there are lot of issues about the need for more variety, longer hours of operation, greater diversity, and better quality," he explained.

The decision follows the lead of many universities across the country. The University of Alberta said farewell to their in-house staff in 1994 ushering in Chartwells, the catering giant that serves many universities in North America and even Canada's prison system. While

the U of A administration remains confident in the move, students, especially U of A residents, have given Aramark mixed reviews at best.

McAdam emphasized that providing better food services will not only improve the student experience at the U of C but it will also increase profits from food services for the University.

"The net financial return to the University, over the ten-year course of the contract, will increase substantially," he said.

"All of food services are being contracted out, so all of our staff are getting laid off. Chartwells will hire some of them, but not others."

ALBI SOLE,
PRESIDENT, ALBERTA UNION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 52

Sole thinks that, if given the opportunity, the current public employees could provide the same level of service for the same cost as Chartwells. He blames the University for the current state of food services.

"The administration has mined the [food] service for cash for the last ten years and run it into the ground. The result is that it has a degraded human and fiscal infrastructure," he said.

"Food services made money for a period of time, but because they've beaten it up so badly, it's about to go into a loss position," Sole explained. He argued that there are options

that would yield the same results as contracting out to Chartwells, including combining current food services with the Students' Union.

"The administration's position is that Chartwells will come in and spruce the whole food service thing up; we could do the same thing. We would make more money out of the operation, we'd have more control and be able to do a lot more in the long-run," he said.

But McAdam maintained that extensive research by the University has shown that Chartwells will be a better option for students and faculty.

"We've thought about this long and hard, and Chartwells has far better purchasing power, resources, marketing, dieticians and menu planners than we could ever hope to replicate in-house," he said.

He explained that, although some people could potentially be unemployed after the transition, it is the University administration's responsibility to provide the campus community with the best food services available.

"We've never lost sight of the fact that we have 300 individuals who are U of C employees. We are making financial counselling sessions and interview and resume-writing aid available to our employees because we want to keep as many of them as we can on campus," he explained.

"If you can find a company that can provide a higher level of service, better quality and better variety, at equal to or less than the cost that you can do it in-house, then clearly you have to look at privatization as an option, simply because all of those benefits ultimately get transferred to the students."

Juicy operation mitigates financial loss: Blatz

JUICY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But they cited time constraints, the need to mitigate financial loss, and the protection of international student employees as factors for the unilateral decision.

The evicted tenant paid \$3500 in monthly rent and in order to make up for the lost revenue, the Executive felt it was a prudent decision to continue to generate the money by operating the business.

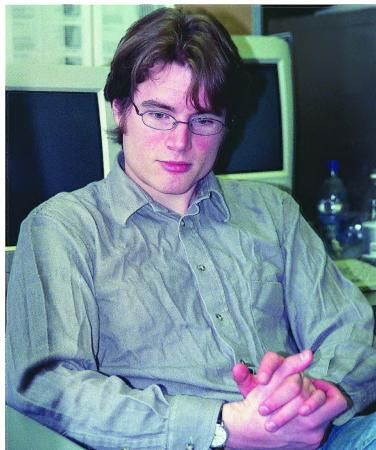
"The decision to self-operate the business as a temporary solution seemed out of natural after making the larger decision, which was that of terminating the lease," said Blatz.

However, Steve Smith refuted Blatz's suggestion that authority to act on a larger decision denotes authority to then act on a following, smaller decision and commented that self-operation did not guarantee profits of \$3500 month to mitigate the losses. Additionally, he was concerned about the precedent set by the Executive's actions.

"I'm absolutely concerned that in the future Executive committees must be absolutely aware that they cannot undertake these activities without a budget being approved by Students' Council, because otherwise we'd be undermining the entire purpose of the budget," he argued.

Steve Smith also questioned why an emergency Council meeting had not been called to discuss possible action on Juicy.

He exemplified an emergency meeting called earlier this year to discuss the reappointment of former arts councilor Adam Knisley to Students' Council and argued that such a meeting could have allowed the SU to follow the proper procedural chan-



JUICY TO GO? Steve Smith thinks the SU Executive overstepped its authority.

nels in the case of Juicy.

Blatz admitted this could have occurred, but noted that it was not thought of by the Executive committee during the decision process because they felt the larger decision to terminate the lease had already been made.

In the end, Blatz said it would be up to DIB Board to decide whether or not the lack of consultation with Students' Council was a breach of Students'

Union bylaws, as suggested by Steve Smith, or rather a unique situation remedied with a less-than-ideal solution.

"We were dealing with a difficult situation and we were trying to deal with it as best as possible and as quickly as possible," said Blatz.

"We made the right decision, we just didn't go about making it the right way, and we've learned from that and we will learn from that."

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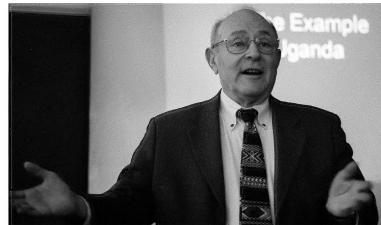
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- University Health Centre
- Wilson Banwell Human Solutions

- Rapid Fire Theatre
- The Student Distress Centre
- Tobacco Reduction Project
- Dr Howard Saslove



MICHAEL RAI

THE SOCIETAL LINK Dr Lee claims the AIDS epidemic is partly a social construct.

MEGHAN POTKINS

News Writer

In a talk at the U of A last Friday, renowned anthropologist Dr Richard B Lee broke down some of the complex issues surrounding the AIDS epidemic.

The Canadian anthropologist from the University of Toronto gave a talk 11 March entitled, "Cash, cars and cellphones: culture and political economy of AIDS in Namibia," as part of the Richard Frucht Memorial Lecture Series. The series is named after a popular University of Alberta anthropology professor who passed away in 1980.

In his address, Lee explored some of the major causal and aggravating factors in the HIV/AIDS crisis, including the role of global institutions, which have failed to mediate the problem.

"The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund's structural adjustment programs created ostensibly to ease poverty and foster development are having the opposite effect, raising commodity prices and cutting back government programs and services," said Lee.

"It is widely believed that the structural adjustment programs have actually accelerated the spread of AIDS, but that's not the whole story," added Lee.

However, he emphasized that macro forces like national and international institutional factors and issues of poverty and racism do not sufficiently explain the complexities of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"How would they address, for

example, the persistence of risky sexual behaviours in spite of the mass media campaigns, or the degree of stigma attached to this disease?" read son Lee.

Lee identified major contributing factors to the AIDS crisis in southern Africa as "the three Cs": cash, cars and cellphones, all of which facilitate the sexual activity of young people.

These elements are overwhelmingly associated with what he called "transactional sex," or sex for status purposes.

Women motivated either by poverty or desire for increased status, and men looking to assert their own status and masculinity by demonstrating sexual prowess are engaging in risky sexual activity. As a result, AIDS continues to be transmitted, he explained.

According to U of A sociology professor Dr Amy Kaler, who participated in a round-table discussion after Lee's address, gender is a critical part of

HIV/AIDS transmission.

"Transactional sex requires people, usually men, who are resource-wealthy enough to buy sex and people, usually women, who are resource-poor enough to sell sex," said Kaler, whose work also explores factors contributing to the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

She suggested that the results could be seen in the prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS for countries like South Africa, Botswana and Lesotho, which have both the highest prevalence rates and the greatest socio-economic disparities in the region.

Kaler also added that Lee's work should create hope for improvement of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa, specifically in the southern region.

"Lee's work, on a micro level, presents a heartening counter-example, suggesting that relative socio-economic equality may reduce women's gendered vulnerability to HIV," she said.

Aspartame not harmful, suggests study

JASLEEN MAHL
News Writer

While countless Internet sites have long warned of the dangers of the artificial sweetener aspartame, a recent study suggests that the substance is safe.

The study, published in the Canadian Journal of Diabetes, reviewed 55 studies of the artificial sweetener to assess the link between aspartame and brain tumours, seizures and the effect on blood-sugar control. It found no evidence of a direct connection.

"We looked into all of the claims and they weren't just ones from the Internet but also ones that came from research studies that had been published," said Dr Catherine Field, a professor in the department of agriculture, food and nutritional science at the U of A who helped with the study.

Field explained that aspartame is the product of two amino acids, aspartic acid and phenylalanine, which don't naturally occur in foods at the same time. However, none of the studies reviewed provided evidence that the simultaneous occurrence of the two substances is harmful.

Aspartame is 180 times sweeter than regular sugar, according to Field. For this reason only a small quantity of it is needed, and the substance can help people reduce calorie and sugar intake.

Diabetics especially tend to consume artificial sweeteners like aspartame

to manage their sugar intake. Field believes this study will help both diabetics and the general public feel safe using aspartame. Additionally, Health Canada and the United States Food and Drug Administration have already confirmed its safety.

"Aspartame can be a helpful component in the diet, adding sweetness without adding calories, thereby assisting with weight control."

DANA WILKINSON,
COORDINATOR, HUMAN NUTRITION
RESEARCH CENTRE

"[Even] if they are reading the allegations on the Internet, they will have the confidence [from my view] that they can still select foods that contain high-intensity sweeteners," she said.

One study's claim of a link between aspartame and brain tumours has raised the most concerns, said Field.

"This particular study has been criticized for implying a cause-and-effect relationship. The authors correlated the incidence of brain tumours in kids with their consumption of aspar-

tame," she said.

"Children consumed more aspartame but they also played more video-games and rode in cars more often, but that does not mean these things caused brain tumours," said Field.

Subsequent scientific studies conducted throughout the world have found no link between aspartame consumption and the incidence of brain tumours.

Dana Wilkinson, a registered dietitian and coordinator of the Human Nutrition Research Centre (HNRC) at the U of A, believes Field's systematic review is of great value because it looks at a vast number of previous studies and does not rely on one particular data set.

"She's looking at what everyone has done—she is not just doing one study of her own and saying, 'Based on my one study this is what I think is true,'" said Wilkinson.

Wilkinson believes that aspartame can help with obesity and weight loss and that people should consider replacing regular sugar with aspartame. However, she notes that if people are concerned about health risks, aspartame can simply be avoided.

"Aspartame can be a helpful component in the diet, adding sweetness without adding calories, thereby assisting with weight control," she said.

"But, it is ultimately your choice. If you don't want it, don't have it."

Mixed reactions on federal budget: SU, admin

KATHARINE HAY
News Writer

The new federal budget has allotted an additional \$75 million for research at Canadian universities.

The Medical Research Council of Canada (MRC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) will dole out the money to university professors over the next five years in the form of research grants. The research councils will now have approximately \$779 million to redistribute this year.

In addition to this, another \$15 million will be distributed to universities to cover incidental research costs, such as power and heat used during lab work.

But according to SU President Jordan Blatz, the federal government is not doing enough for Canadian universities like the U of A.

"We were disappointed to see the federal budget," said Blatz.

"I don't mean to give the impression that research isn't important to Canadian universities, [but] we were really looking forward to seeing dedicated transfer payments to the provinces for postsecondary education."

Federal transfer payments would mean more money for universities from the Government of Canada, said Blatz.

However, the U of A administration reacted differently to the news.

"It's not a lot, but it means that the federal government is continuing to



BUDGET WOES SU President Jordan Blatz discusses his disappointment.

acknowledge that these are real costs that the University has to bear," said Vice-President (Research) Dr Gary Kachanowski.

He added that because approximately seven per cent of the money will be awarded to U of A professors, there's a chance that more summer

positions in labs will be created for undergraduate students.

Kachanowski emphasized that the funding increase came as a surprise to the U of A.

"We were happy to see some money in the budget because I think that we were not expecting to see very much."

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Mathieu Johnson

Vice President (External)
Samantha Power

Vice President (Operations and Finance)
Jason Tobias

Vice President (Student Life)
Justin Kehoe

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Adam Cook

Health Plan Referendum
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Remuneration:

\$1153/month May-August

\$1009/month September-April

For further information contact the VP Academic.

UNIVERSITY POLICY AND INFORMATION OFFICER

Reports to the VP Academic. Provides information and advice regarding U of A policies, priorities, and practices through research and analysis. Assists in writing and researching policies. Conducts research into policies and practices of other post-secondary institutions or other matters related to the academic portfolio as required. This position requires a minimum of 20 hours per week in office time.

Remuneration:

\$1153/month May-August

\$1009/month September-April

For further information contact the VP Academic.

ECOS DIRECTOR* (Environmental Coordination Office of Students)

Reports to the Manager Student Services. The Director of ECOS is responsible for researching, developing and implementing environmental programs for the Students' Union on Campus.

Remuneration:

\$133/month

For further information contact the

Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

OMBUD SERVICE DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Must possess strong listening skills and be an effective mediator. Must be familiar with University and Students' Union grievance and appeal procedures, and will represent and advise students on such matters.

Remuneration:

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Term: This position requires a two-year commitment.

For further information contact the

Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

STUDENT DISTRESS CENTRE DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. In conjunction with the Distress Line, offers peer counselling, crisis intervention and information/referral services to the campus community. Must have at least one year of comparable peer-counselling experience.

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Acne drug used for birth control raises concerns amongst UBC researchers

Researchers call on company to pull TV ads because of 'harmful message'

SARAH BOURDON
The Ubyssey

VANCOUVER (CP)—A drug designed to treat severe acne has been prescribed and marketed as a birth control pill, though it is not approved for that purpose and poses health risks to its users, says Barbara Mintzes, an epidemiologist at the University of British Columbia.

Mintzes, along with several colleagues, recently sent an official complaint to Health Canada opposing a new string of commercials marketing Diane-35.

The advertisements, which ran throughout February on popular television channels, implied that the drug can be used as birth control, she said.

"[The ad] shows young girls preening in front of the mirror and twirling umbrellas and makes the decision to use this drug look similar to the decision to buy a new lipstick or a cosmetic cream at a drug store," Mintzes said.

This is not the first time Diane-35 has generated opposition—the drug's manufacturer, Berlex, was twice ordered by Health Canada to issue warnings to Canadian physicians and pharmacists about Diane-35's possible risks. These risks include potentially fatal blood clotting and liver problems.

The drug is the suspected cause of eight deaths in Canada, according to Mintzes.

"We would like the company to pull the ads immediately," she said.

"This is the third major advertising campaign for Diane-35 aimed at the Canadian public since its approval in 1998. We would also like to see Health Canada fine the company and require them to pay for corrective advertising."

The ad closes with an image of the Diane-35 package, which closely

resembles the packaging used for birth control pills, Mintzes noted. More troubling, the ad portrays the drug as a solution for mild acne, suggesting that young women desiring clear skin should use the potent drug, she said.

"They are hoping that teenage girls will ask their doctor for a prescription for Diane-35," suggested Mintzes of the ad campaign.

"[The ad] shows young girls preening in front of the mirror and twirling umbrellas and makes the decision to use this drug look similar to the decision to buy a new lipstick or a cosmetic cream at a drug store."

**BARBARA MINTZES,
EPIDEMIOLOGIST,
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

"This type of ad builds brand image. The idea is for young girls to relate to the brand as cool and to remember the name."

However, Mintzes contended, this message is very harmful in light of the risks associated with the drug.

"Internal Health Canada memo before the drug was approved says that the reason the approved use was so restricted was to prevent widespread population exposure because of safety concerns," said Mintzes.

She added that Diane-35 has never been approved in the United States, while in Canada, Berlex's initial application for approval was turned down.

Diane-35's manufacturers say it can be used as a contraceptive, though they state that the drug is not intended exclusively for that purpose.

"Diane-35 is an acne medication; its focus is acne. But we know that this product, even though it should not be prescribed solely for that purpose, is effective as an oral contraceptive," said a spokesperson for the company.

"Normally physicians will prescribe this to patients who have acne situations and require contraception at the same time. While you're taking Diane-35, you are not to use any other type of estrogen-progesterone combination because it's already in there."

Women's health advocates at the Canadian Women's Health Network and Women and Health Protection are hoping that the complaint they have sent to Health Canada will result in improved drug monitoring in Canada.

"The fact that there is a drug that has an increased risk profile for something that is not a life threatening event—acne—is not a life threatening event—that is more than a little controversial," said Kathleen O'Grady, a spokesperson for the Health Network.

"That is something that we think Health Canada really needs to take action on, they need to focus on monitoring and making direct consumer advertising clearly illegal. This is not just selling cookies and cars to people."

When it comes to choosing birth control pills, Mintzes advises making sure the chosen drug has been approved by Health Canada as a contraceptive.

"There is no good reason for someone even with moderate acne who also wants birth control to choose Diane-35 rather than a safer birth control pill."

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No frills Jetsgo going, going, gone

Montréal airline closure affects student vacation plans, national conferences

JONATHAN WOODWARD
British Columbia Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Frugal and fuming students were among the stranded 17,000 travellers left disconnected across North America when discount airline Jetsgo abruptly told its customers to find their own way home.

Thousands more had everything from Easter vacation plans to hopes of attending conferences dashed by the sudden, midnight announcement from the upstart carrier.

"We've been planning this [debate conference] for two years and then Jetsgo says it's finished," said University of Alberta student Sharon Ohayon, the director of an upcoming national debating tournament in Edmonton.

"What do we do now?"

Over 100 people were planning to fly from their home universities to the Edmonton tournament, and one-third of them were on Jetsgo, said Ohayon.

Calculating the costs of a lost Jetsgo ticket and a replacement ticket—about \$700 each—times 27 people from McGill, Carleton, Guelph, York and Waterloo universities, the cost to the debaters alone would be "a ridiculous amount of money," she said.

Jetsgo, an airline famous for its low fares but notorious for delayed flights and technical difficulties, was increasingly clogged by creditors like the

Greater Toronto Airports Authority and Nav Canada until its sudden end at midnight, Eastern time, 11 March. Owing millions, Jetsgo filed for bankruptcy protection and grounded its planes.

"We've been planning this [debate conference] for two years and then Jetsgo says it's finished."

SHARON OHAYON,
DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL DEBATING TOURNAMENT

Debaters don't take things like this with their mouths shut, said Ohayon. In efforts coordinated through an Internet forum, debaters from across the country have been talking to sponsors to fund the expenses as well as phoning Transport Canada, the prime minister's office and Jetsgo itself.

"Shouldn't they be changing their name to 'Jetsstop'?" asked Ohayon.

The National Debating Championships, a tournament that features public speaking contests and structured argumentation, might have some new topics to discuss, she said.

"How about: 'You're in a room with

the owner of Jetsgo. What do you do?' It would get some creative responses. It's one of the things that people have strong opinions about now."

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations conference at Dalhousie University in Halifax avoided a disaster, as most delegates had booked flights on other airlines.

CASA spokesperson Caen Sunni said that a late-night survey of student unions showed that most were going to make it to the conference.

Mark Sward, vice-president of McGill University's Students' Society, said that he was glad he and two other McGill delegates had booked flights on Air Canada.

"If I were on Jetsgo, I would be annoyed, that's for sure," he said.

Montreal entrepreneur Michel Leblanc founded Jetgo in 2002 from the ashes of Canada 3000, which also collapsed dramatically during the post-11 September travel chill.

The embattled airline had recently come under investigation by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada after one of its planes skidded off the runway at the Calgary International Airport, hit a sign, then took off and landed safely on 20 January.

On 4 March, a departing Jetgo plane left debris on a Toronto airport runway, and on 5 March, an engine leak diverted a plane from Toronto to South Carolina.

Discrimination prompts LGBTT rep to leave University of Manitoba residence

ROBERT KOTYK
Central Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP)—A University of Manitoba student was discriminated against on campus, forcing her to leave the Fort Garry residence in which she was living over the first term, University officials said last month.

Heidi Le May, a student originally from Minnesota, was living at the University's Taché residence in February, when she was the target of several acts of discrimination based on her sexual orientation.

Le May, the University of Manitoba Students' Union's newly acclaimed LGBTT community representative, said that she found threats like "Keep it behind closed doors and die" written in marker on the message board hanging from her room's outer door.

She contacted Jason van Rooy, co-facilitator of the University's Rainbow Pride Mosaic, who made the necessary arrangements with acting Director of Housing and Student Affairs Joe Danis for Le May to move to a different residence over reading week.

Since then, Le May has moved again and found an apartment off campus.

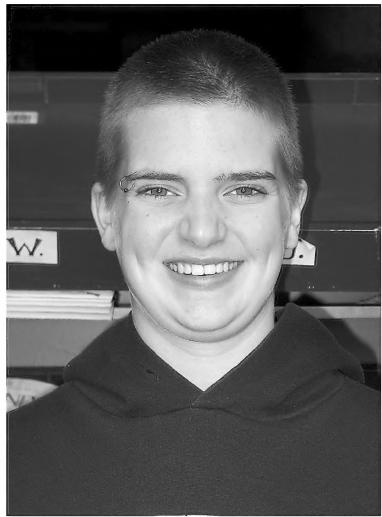
Le May said, as the LGBTT representative, the incident has made her more aware of her role on campus.

"Since [this discrimination] happened, I'm going to really do whatever I can to make sure that that doesn't happen to anybody in the next year," she said.

"I think [we should be] doing whatever we can to make people feel safe [in residence], that it's not a scary place—especially for people who are trying to come out."

Le May said that, growing up in suburban Minnesota, she was already the subject of discrimination in the past.

"Tons of stuff happened in high



COURTESY OF THE MANITOBA STUDENT UNION

school that was just ridiculous, stuff that shouldn't have been happening," she said.

"Well, I guess I kind of built up tolerance."

According to van Rooy, eight complaints—“bashing reports”—complaints based on incidents of homophobia on campus—have been submitted to the Rainbow Pride Mosaic since he began

accepting them in September.

"Unfortunately we're aware that for each one that we do receive there is a significant number of people who aren't reporting incidents that occur or graffiti that they see somewhere."

According to Director of Security Services Jim Rafis, no one has been found responsible for the messages written on Le May's door.

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OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 17 march, 2005

Klein misses real issue of smoking ban

LAST WEEK, PREMIER RALPH KLEIN announced that he would not back the province-wide smoking ban in full, stating that the emphasis of the bill needed to be altered to protect children and prevent youth from starting to smoke rather than convincing older smokers to quit.

"All public buildings including legislatures, workplaces and so on would be off limits to people who smoke. In other words, there would be a smoking ban, but we ought to make some allowance for bars, casinos and bingo halls where children are not allowed," said Klein in a recent article on CBC online.

By making such statements, Klein has completely missed the initial point of the nationwide trend. Most bills prohibit smoking in the workplace. Notice the language, "workplace"; the focus of the ban is to protect the employees of any establishment that permits smoking. The bans are acknowledgements that second-hand smoke can kill, regardless of a person's own smoking history; this fact was illustrated by Heather Crowe, the woman who appeared in Health Canada TV advertisements discussing the effects of second-hand smoke. While she had never smoked a day in her life, she developed lung cancer as a result of 40 years of waitress smoking in smoking environments.

Yet we in Alberta have lost sight of this in the public debate over the province-wide ban. For some reason, the focus has shifted to patron comfort, youth, and the general "quit smoking" campaign. While these are worthwhile concerns, they are secondary, and furthermore actually damaging to the main thrust of the bans.

The result is what we see happening in Alberta. We have lost sight of the workplace safety thrust, and instead see it as a ban of smoking from social establishments—an imposition on smokers' leisure time. This effectively allows Klein and others to argue that we should not implement a ban because the government has no place telling a person to quit smoking. (Conversely, Klein himself has gone on the record denouncing smokers as a drain on the healthcare system, yet refuses to support the bill on principle because of his libertarian beliefs.)

Smoking-ban advocates in Alberta need to step back, then evaluate and quickly reorganize their campaigns to address this crucial shift in attention. If they don't act quickly, Klein's adjustments to the bill will easily slip through in the predominantly conservative/libertarian Alberta legislature. This will, once for all, shift the focus of smoking bans in Alberta to protection of individual choice instead of protection in the workplace.

More often than not, Alberta lags behind in the social movements of this country, and this situation is no different; already New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and other provinces are smoke-free. However, Alberta still has a chance to be proactive and protect its citizens from needless harm, if smoking-ban advocates can influence the necessary players to see the original emphasis of the movement.

COSANNA PRESTON
Senior News Editor

Critics going too far

I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE to get too choked about dissenting opinions. In fact, more often than not, I fully expect most people to disagree with my various outlandish musings. I am heartened when I receive letters decrying my work; this is, after all, the purpose of a newspaper—to inform and provoke debate. It's the very reason why this newspaper has a letters section.

What pisses me off, though, is when Gateway writers suffer verbal and physical abuse at the hands of angry readers. For the love of God, grow the fuck up. We're a student newspaper on a university campus, and this presumes that most people reading the Gateway are adults. Interesting, then, that some people find it so difficult to behave like ones.

I'm not going to go into detail—in order to protect certain authors' anonymity and respect their right to privacy—but I will say this: cursing at a Gateway writer in public or attempting to injure them because you disagree with them is at best childish, and at worst illegal. Please, air your disagreements in the letters section.

ADAM ROZENHART
Editor-in-Chief

LETTERS

An open letter from the premier

Postsecondary education is a hot topic across the country right now, with most provinces looking at what needs to be done to equip postsecondary institutions for the 21st century.

Some experts predict that in the next decade, 65 per cent of all jobs will require some form of postsecondary education, whether it be a college diploma, trade certificate or university degree. It is clear that meeting the challenges of the 21st century means making sure good educational opportunities are available to everyone.

This is not just about getting a good job. It is not just about university-level studies, and it is not just about young people in their early 20s—it is about inspiring people to make the most of their potential, in whatever way they are gifted. People of all ages, not only young adults, should be encouraged to pursue a path of lifelong learning. In recent years, I have been trying to put this idea into practice in my own life by working towards my university degree.

Both the students of today and tomorrow deserve a strong postsecondary system that will help them achieve their aspirations. Here in Alberta, our government has made postsecondary education a top priority, and we are undertaking a number of new initiatives to invest in higher learning. The addition of thousands of new student spaces and billions of dollars in endowments and scholarships will help create an advanced education system for all qualified and motivated Albertans.

The future of postsecondary education is important not only for students and their own personal fulfillment, but also for our country's economic and social success. A strong postsecondary system is key to continued economic diversification, growth and prosperity.

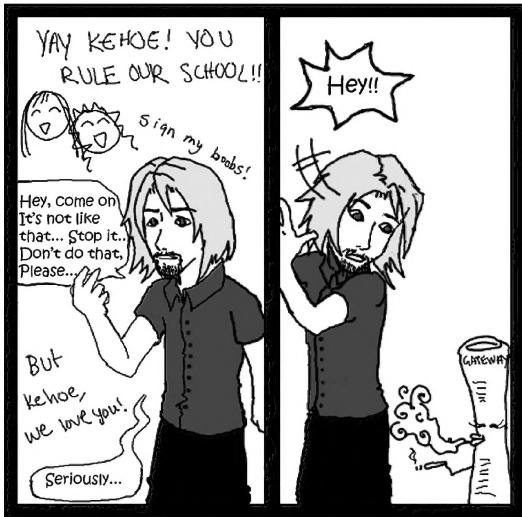
Alberta is moving forward with a comprehensive plan for taking our education system to new levels of excellence. We do not want Alberta's young people to have to go elsewhere for a postsecondary education. No student should be turned away because they cannot afford the cost of tuition. Our government is committed to an affordable, accessible and high-quality postsecondary system for all Albertans.

Investing in education now will ensure a bright and promising future for Alberta's children and grandchildren.

RALPH KLEIN
Premier of Alberta

Use some tact, Rozenhart

Though other readers may sometimes quickly dismiss the commonly swear-saturated, dirty-minded opinion articles, I usually find that by sifting through the "colorful" language, I'm able to both appreciate the offbeat word choices and pick out the brilliant kernels of wisdom that usually exist in each article.



Adam Rozenhart's article, "Hey, God: show some mercy" (15 March), did indeed contain such a kernel: it is difficult to deal with the slow deterioration of an elderly person who is so loved, and one cannot help but wonder if death after such a long and meaningful life is a better alternative to suffering. However, even I, in response to the informal wording/choices of your article, such as the sentence, "Seriously God, why won't you just let the Pope die?" feel that you have misused the privileges of a casual newspaper banter.

Certain situations require a little bit of tact, and I would even go so far as to say that matters of the ailing Pope, God bless him, require an extraordinary amount of tact. Calling the Pope "ol' JP" (as if he is some kind of lame old-school rapper coming to the Powerplant on his fourth farewell tour) I think that "His Holiness" might be a more acceptable way of identifying the head of the Catholic Church. Wittily wordplay is a commendable skill but do not let it get in the way of an issue that requires serious attention. Hey, Rozenhart: show some tact!

ERIN VOKANDER
Arts IV

Do your homework, Rozenhart

I realize that Adam Rozenhart's opinion piece in the 15 March paper ("Hey, God: show some mercy") was just that: representative of his own opinion. However, I would suggest that he acquire a better understanding of the situation before asserting that the Pope is "likely just a fraud."

The office of the Pope entails immense responsibilities, most of which are not visible to the non-Catholic public. As far as I am aware, John Paul II has not ceased his continual fulfillment of his obligations. Maybe Rozenhart would prefer that the Pope give inspired and inspiring orations from the Vatican, put out encyclicals on the

major moral issues of our time and canonize more saints than any other Pope, ever. Wait—he does all that.

I'm really not sure what else you want, Rozenhart. That seems to me to make him an "effective head of Church right now." If you still disagree, fine, but do your homework first, please.

OLWYN SUPENE
Music II

of my relationship, or still chained to a pot-belly stove because I am an enlightened woman in an enlightened society, should not want marriage, or children. If I can choose to be a university graduate or choose to run for prime minister, why is it suddenly a bad thing for me to choose to get married and have children when I want to?

Orwan has put the same stigma on being married with children that people in the 1950s put on women with careers. This puts our society further away from the goals of feminism than we've ever been.

LINDSAY STAMHUIS
Arts II

Business students, Lewis, both right

Ben Abertant et al ("Lewis wrong, Gateway 'neo-communist,'" 15 March) unconvincingly agree with Avi Lewis in that it was the fiscal policy, among other neo-liberal policies practiced, that caused the deep crisis in Argentina—a country deemed to be an exemplary "follower of the IMF economic [and disastrous] recipes." Thank you for pointing that out guys, but I'm sure that the Chicago boys at IMF wouldn't appreciate you calling their policies "left wing."

LUIS ALBERTO DELIA
MEd Alumnius

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication. Anonymous submissions will not be considered. I wish I was an Oscar Mayer wiener.

Dose is destined to be a youth-oriented failure



ROSS
MOROZ

I know what you're thinking: you're young, you're hip, and you, like, totally want to stay plugged in and in the know, but you, like, just aren't really feeling this whole newspaper thing. I mean, you try to stay down with the 411, but the established media in this country just doesn't, you know, get you, faux-hawk-sporting, vintage-blazer-wearing, autocloaking little hipster. Well fear not, you burgeoning extreme athlete cum new-media artiste, because all that is about to change next month with the launch of Dose, an urban daily targeted at that elusive 18- to 34-year-old demographic: Fo' shizzle.

According to Dose's website, the paper's guiding principle is a belief that "there is a lot of crap out there and we realized there was nothing that was relevant to us so we said screw it we are going to create a new source of information for our peers." In addition to displaying an apparent disregard for the conventions of written English—grammar is, I suppose, tragically uncool—this de-façô mission statement also demonstrates a subtle touch of hypocrisy: while "we" could be the paper's "clever, funny and brutally honest" staff, it more likely refers to the actual progenitors of the project, the old, rich white men of CanWest Global. You see, while Dose is largely trying to steal the style and readership—of independent alt-weeklies like Vancouver's *Straight* or Toronto's *Now*—and to a lesser extent, locals See and Vue—the paper is wholly owned and operated by the same people who bring you such irrelevant "crap" as the *Edmonton Journal* and Global television. Dose even shares office space with the *National Post*. How underground; how alternative; how positively subversive.

But the real reason Dose is worthy of scorn and ridicule before its first issue

even hits the streets is the fact that all attempts by mainstream media to reach out to the ubiquitous youth market tend to, well, really suck. Dose and its kin, such as the *Journal*'s pathetic *Ed* or CBC's noble but unwatchable *The Hour*, are basically media conglomerates' poor solutions to the simple problem of declining reader/listener/viewership among young people. And while corporate media should be applauded for recognizing this somewhat serious problem—older people are generally less attractive to advertisers, plus they eventually tend to, you know, die—the way they're going about trying to solve it shows just how out of touch they actually are with the cherished youth demographic. This generation is probably more interested in current events than any that have come before it; the reason we aren't watching network news or reading broadsheet dailies, though, is much more about technology and economics than a supposed lack of "relevance."

Consider this: why—in a world where anyone with a computer and an Internet connection can read, watch, or listen to reportage from virtually any information source on the planet, expressing a multitude of viewpoints and biases—would anyone in their right mind feel well-informed or up to speed after reading an issue of the *Edmonton Sun* or watching an hour of *Newsword*? If anything, corporate

THE BURLAP SACK

I slowed down to let you merge into my lane. Or, you cut too close in front of me but I didn't get mad. If you fall into either of these categories, then you probably deserve a vicious sack beating. The reason's because you, like thousands of other Edmonton drivers, never give the goddamn wave.

You see, the wave is a little shake of the wrist performed with the right hand. It is done in such a way as to be visible through the rear window of one's car. The purpose is to acknowl-

edge the driver behind you for doing something nice, or sometimes to apologize for totally shafting them in traffic.

The wave is the car equivalent of saying "thanks" when a stranger holds a door for you—it's polite, and shows the people around you that you care at least a little about someone other than yourself. In this era of road rage, being treated well on the road and treating others well in turn will probably slow the general decline of civilized society. So learn it and do it, or get in the sack.

CHRIS KRAUSE

No real sack beatings are given.

media outlets have it all backwards: it's not that young people are uncomfortable with mainstream media; rather, it's that older consumers are comfortable with nothing except the established choices. Young people aren't alienated by *The Globe and Mail*, at least not nearly as much as older people are alienated by Google News. And after browsing a healthy mix of mainstream and alternative news websites for even ten minutes, it is unlikely that watching a supper-hour newscast or reading the "A" section of a broadsheet will reveal anything of interest to you that you haven't already fully digested from a multitude of angles and perspectives.

Major corporate media is getting all worked up over nothing—I mean, come on now, have 20-year-olds ever read *Maclean's*? And it's not because of the lack of "in your face" articles written in cloyingly "hip" language about parkour or livejournalists or some other nonsense, either.

Regardless, I sincerely hope Dose happens to somehow fulfill its mandate of speaking to me and my apparently wayward, under-informed peers. But I can't help but think that Dose will quickly become the punchline to every cynical joke about the downfall of Canadian media—the *Train 48* or Mike Bullard of print, I suppose. Hey, weren't *Train 48* and Mike Bullard's show both CanWest properties, too? Fo' shizzle, indeed.

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Graduate Students' Association Annual General Meeting

Monday March 21, 2005 @ 6:00pm
Council Chambers (2-1 University Hall)

All graduate students are encouraged to attend

- Approval of the GSA 2005-06 Budget
- By Elections for GSA VP Academic, VP Labour Relations, and VP Student Services
- Ratifying the 2005-06 GSA Executive
- Election of graduate student representatives for General Faculties Council and FGSR Council
- 2004-05 Executive Annual Reports

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THE GATEWAY



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: NICK WEBB AND IRIS TSE

You're not really 'straight'

ADAM SNIDER



cept of homosexuality. That's right kids: "gaysness" predates "straightness." After all, before the concept of homosexuality was developed, there was nothing against which to compare the supposed norm of heterosexuality. Hence, from a conceptual perspective, homosexuality predates heterosexuality.

So, I'm heterosexual, insomuch as I'm generally attracted to women. This is, presumably, a biological trait. Straightness, however, is a conscious choice, and I choose not to identify as straight because to do so would be a lie. To identify as straight would be to ignore those parts of me which are clearly "queer." Additionally, it would be to buy into the misogynistic, hetero-normative regime that oppresses anyone who is not a "straight" (white) male.

So, I challenge anyone and everyone who has ever had a "gay dream," a "queer desire," or any other sexual something that didn't fit into the incredibly narrow, hetero-normative definition of "normal sexuality" to come out of the closet. Identify yourself for what you are. You are not straight. You are predominantly heterosexual, but you're not straight.

If everyone takes the initiative, and identifies as what they are—let's use the term "queer," for lack of a better word—then there will no longer be a need to lie and pretend that you're straight if you aren't. If we all come out of the closet, we can destroy the illusion of hetero-normativity. If this happens, there will cease to be a need to label people as straight, gay, bi, trans, or whatever else. Instead, we'll all just be people, at least as far as our sexuality is concerned.

Having said that, I'm not denying the existence of hetero-normative people. I have no doubt that there are people who are 100 per cent "straight." They are incredibly rare, but they do exist. It's unfair, though, that these are the only people who are allowed, under the current system, to feel 100 per cent comfortable with their sexuality.

So, closeted people of the world, out yourselves—out yourselves and be free.

Legalizing drugs could solve a lot of our problems



PEPPIN

tion and widespread creation of drug-control task forces, the supply and sale of illegal narcotics are unchecked; indeed, largely unaffected. This fact alone should merit a rejection of the experiment's hypotheses and a re-examination of its assumptions.

Despite massive increases in police budgets, feverish governmental attention and widespread creation of drug-control task forces, the supply and sale of illegal narcotics are unchecked; indeed, largely unaffected.

Whether you realize it or not, social policies—indeed, all government policies—are a form of experiment. Like a proper experiment, their hypotheses have certain assumptions at their core and certain strategies, methods and instruments at their disposal. Time and human interaction provide the necessary lab work and, ideally, at some point past which the data has become conclusive, the experiment is deemed either a success or a failure. Its methods have either produced the desired effect or they have not.

So after having four Mounties shot on a raid that had nothing to do with marijuana, Anne McLellan is now recommending mandatory minimum sentences for anyone caught growing. What she doesn't seem to realize, or is unwilling to accept, is that the experiment has been an abysmal failure. The strategy of combatting drug use and addiction using the cumbersome and imprecise tools of criminal law was a poor one at its conception, and is unlikely to improve with still more time. By acting on instinct and reflex, and by neglecting to examine the outcome and the silent assumptions of the war on drugs, she has failed to provide a solution, and has failed all Canadians.

The most obvious reason to change the way we combat drug abuse is that our current methods don't work. Despite massive increases in police budgets, feverish governmental atten-

tion and widespread creation of drug-control task forces, the supply and sale of illegal narcotics are unchecked; indeed, largely unaffected. This fact alone should merit a rejection of the experiment's hypotheses and a re-examination of its assumptions.

Our drug-control efforts have also been extremely costly and socially destructive. Billions of dollars are spent annually either directly or indirectly to "control" the drug trade, with precious little tangible result. Prison space, law enforcement wages and equipment, judiciary costs, port and border security—the costs of our experiment are exceptional. Privacy and individual rights and freedoms are often abused in drug investigations, while the messages that we are fed about the overwhelming dangers of drugs promote an atmosphere of helplessness and fear.

An extremely serious but often overlooked consequence of narcotics prohibition is crime. It is not drugs that lead to crime, but their illegality. The rise and proliferation of organized

criminal bodies fed by drug-trade profits is a recognized and obvious consequence of prohibition. Less obvious, though, is the immense volume of robberies, assaults and other commonplace crimes that are directly attributable to our anti-drug efforts.

Because both the product and its suppliers are actively hunted by police, and because some of the product is taken out of the market through seizures, prices for narcotics are astronomically high. For some, the cost to support their habit is hundreds or thousands of dollars a week. Yet, because traditional employment is insufficient to meet the need, and because the need is so great, they will turn to illegal activity to satisfy it. Theft, prostitution and even some drug trafficking are attributable not to the mind-altering influence of drugs, but to their high prices.

Is the answer, then, for the government to provide cheap, high-quality narcotics? Perhaps. But we won't know with certainty until we run the experiment. All we can say with assurance at the moment is that attempting to stop the use and trade of drugs with legal penalties is not only ineffective, but also flatly counterproductive.

We are being shamefully ignorant and naive if we believe that increased law enforcement presence and more stringent laws are serving to cure this, or any, social malady. The need for a large and rigorous police body is a symptom of a decaying society, not a solution to it. The data is in, and they damn our methods unequivocally. If we are to solve these problems we must have a more sophisticated approach, rooted in the conclusions of previous social experiments. So get your lab coat, Anne, and don your protective goggles. You'll need them.

Thanks for the money, Kuma



ADAM ROZENHART

seven years at university. And, although I received a fantastic education, it seems karma has other things in mind for me. This, my friends, is what you get for being kind to people and taking the lumps that life tends to dole out. Just when it feels like all the chips are down, salvation presents itself in ways you'd never have thought possible—in my case, they came from a single mother from West Africa who hasn't figured out how to properly operate her cap-lock key.

I haven't really decided what I'm going to do with this money yet. Kuma has informed me that this whole transaction of ours shouldn't take much more than seven days in total, so I had better start deciding on things to spend this money on, or charities that would benefit from my philanthropic nature—after all, I don't want to lose all these fantastic karmic points I seem to have gained over the last 24 years.

Maybe I'll fund research looking into creating a race of hyper-intelligent spybirds that can make sure that Kuma's husband's business partners don't go around poisoning any more successful coco merchants. Perhaps this research will be the first step to finding peace in this troubled region of the globe. Who knows? Whatever the case, everything's coming up Rozenhart.

Regardless of what I decide to do with the money in the long-term, I know that once I receive my cut of the \$5.6 million, I'll be taking a trip over to Africa to thank Joane Kuma in person for helping me to start out my life after university. Unless this turns out to be a scam of some sort, which seems highly unlikely—after all, who can't pick up on a scam? Well, if you need me, I'll be at the movies, getting a head start on spending all this money of mine. So long, suckers.

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Happy St Patrick's day, you drunks

PAUL
OWEN

Did you know today is St Patrick's Day? That's right: it's the day we get to celebrate Patrick riddling Ireland of snakes by catching the Lucky Charms mascot and feeding him to Nessie. Actually, I don't know what St Patrick's Day is, other than a shameless excuse to drink like an Irishman and cause unnecessary pain to my friends who forgot to wear green. I know it's supposed to only be a pint, but a body-check down a stairwell is so much more effective.

Really, though, St Patrick's Day is mostly just another excuse for people around the world to unite and get drunk in thanks to the Irish for being the butt of jokes for centuries. It's as if the Emerald Islanders are attempting to forget their sorrows with enough green beer to drown a small Asian country in a green, alcoholic tsunami. And as college students, it's important for the rest of us to support their efforts by joining in and being drunk before 3pm.

Those of us with some sort of Irish heritage will be claiming close relations with our black-sheep uncle Seamus, who tends to get naked at family gatherings. The rest of you wannabes will be dying your hair red and adding an "O'" to your surnames so you can try the whole "Kiss me, I'm Irish" deal. You fakers will be exposed, though, when you take your naps after a mere seven-hour binge. Pisers.

That might be the biggest problem about St Patrick's Day: while it's certainly nice to give support to the poor, poor Irish, there are those who will take it far too seriously, drinking Guinness and trying to talk with a shitty accent. These poor schmucks will inevitably be the ones river-dancing on top of a table and generally pissing off everyone stranger in a 20-foot radius because a Great Big Sea song came on the radio. Others will start acting like they came straight out of Alexander Keith's commercial. As a general rule, these people deserve an elbow to the face.

Excepting these few drunken idiots, though, St. Paddy's is a great time to relax and remember what truly matters in life: the little things such as beer, breasts and the pursuit of both. If my uncle Seamus has taught me anything, it's that the former will help in the pursuit of the latter, and if beer doesn't help, there's always starting a brawl to get the attention of that kick-toothed female. In true Irish style, all dromybooks must end without anyone claiming injury, no matter how many ribs are broken, and with all parties sharing a pitcher and declaring one another the best of friends. It may seem like a lot of rules to follow, but for those of us who were born with it, it's par for the course.

So, don't forget to do something nasty to anyone not wearing green or to get drunk and celebrate today. We Irish deserve it, and so do all you non-Irish students out there—after all, it's not every day that public intoxication is not only considered acceptable, but is actively encouraged. In fact, why don't you stop by and offer me a pint? I'll be the guy with his "Kiss Me, I'm Irish" pin attached to his zipper.

Jetsgo 'ninjas' have ripped off Canadians

SCOTT
LILWALL

They came in the middle of the night, moving stealthily along the dimly lit corridors. Upon reaching their destination, the work started quickly. Signs were ripped down hastily. By the time the sun's first light filtered through the windows, all traces of what once stood were gone. Indeed, the next morning, many questioned whether anything really stood there in the first place.

As one might gather from the hackneyed, cliché-heavy passage above, I should probably give up my dreams of being a fiction writer. But, more importantly, I'm also trying to segue into the sudden dismantling of airport terminals by Jetsgo employees—or, as I like to call them, the airport ninjas.

If you, fair reader, are not one of the unlucky bastards who was hoping to fly somewhere this spring, let my explain. Late in the evening of 10 March, the bargain-priced airline Jetsgo ceased operations and filed for bankruptcy protection. During the night, employees at many airports packed up all of the company's signage and equipment. By morning, Jetsgo was simply gone in many locations. It was a clean collapse that went without a hitch.

That is, until the morning, when ticket-holders arrived to find that their travel plans were missing a vital component—the means of travel. Many Jetsgo employees also showed up for their morning shifts to find that the company had disappeared. On the

subject of the rapid demise of his seven-airline airline, President Michel Leblanc stated, "We deeply regret that this had to happen. The decision to cease operations was only taken after difficult deliberation."

Yes, he regret it. Or, you know, not really. He's not sorry enough to, I don't know, stop selling tickets to customers. Indeed, an hour before Jetsgo announced their demise, the company's website was still taking money for flights that were never going to take off—money that Jetsgo now refuses to return, instead stating that customers should file complaints with the ministry of transportation.

So, why would the company take more customer money when they knew damn well the service would not be provided?

This is where the real story is. Jetsgo was Canada's third-largest airline, not a frigging lemonade stand. Presumably, then, the decision to pack up and go home was not made in 15 minutes. So, why would the company take more customer money when they knew damn well the service would not be provided? Court documents show that Jetsgo lost nearly \$55 million dollars in eight months, due to Leblanc's revolutionary business plan of setting ticket prices so low that revenues were far below operational costs. Take that, basic economic principles! So, if Leblanc and company knew they had a lame duck on their hands, and took money

anyway, what type of punishment can we expect? Obviously harsh sanctions, perhaps even criminal charges, right? You obviously haven't been paying attention to Canadian politics.

Transport Minister Jean Lapierre spoke with the media on Friday, saying, "You cannot have a warning on a bankruptcy, unless if you give them a warning, your bankruptcy is now." Therefore, there was no way for Leblanc's company to stop selling tickets until they made the bankruptcy announcement. The transportation minister must have been living in a cave in 1997, then, when Greyhound Airlines stopped selling tickets two weeks before they went under, ensuring that there wouldn't be any travellers holding tickets for flights that no longer existed. To be fair, though, the demise of another major airline, Canada 3000 in 2001, went along in much the same way as Jetsgo. And, as a fact, guess who was the vice-chairman of Canada 3000, fired shortly before the company went under? Michel Leblanc. Wow.

The fact of the matter is that Jetsgo took money from people with the promise to provide a service. They had no intention of providing that service, and now have no intention of giving back the money. Where I come from, this is called theft. People usually get charged for that, or at least are forced to give the money back. While some customers are getting refunds, usually through insurance policies provided by travel agents or credit card companies, others are stuck crossing their fingers. They hope that when all of Jetsgo's creditors are paid off, maybe there will be some money left for them, although this seems unlikely. Seems these airport ninjas might just sneak away into the night yet again.

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We don't need another goddamn warning label



DERRICK
GREBINSKI

Scenario: you're five months pregnant, lounging in your filthy studio apartment above a bowling alley with a half-empty bottle of Jim Beam wedged between your doughy thighs. It's almost time for the Matryoshka which is the only reason you're out of bed before 3pm. Suddenly, your eye catches a new label on the bottle.

Brushing away the remnants of your McLunch, you decide to investigate further. "Alcohol will harm your unborn child," it warns; "do not consume alcohol during pregnancy." Sighed, you cast the bottle away, find a decent job, and, when your child is born healthy and bright, or she eventually grows up to become the best darned fiddler west of Thunder Bay.

That sounds pretty reasonable, doesn't it? If you think so, you're probably pleased at the recent calls to place warning labels on liquor bottles in Canada. Obviously, the reason why this is a large enough problem to justify yet another warning is that the effects of alcohol use during preg-

nancy are not known to every human being with a pulse, right?

Well, no. The reason why this is seen as necessary is because those who need to be constantly instilled with common sense are so hilariously stupid that even the most evident dangers just don't show up on the old radar. There is a big difference between knowledge that one may not reasonably have, and the requirement of a "do not consume" label on a can of house paint.

But this is the 21st century, boys and girls. Personal accountability is a bloated carcass at the bottom of a well these days, and it's actually a benefit to be as comprehensively dim as possible. There's always someone salvaging over the idea of being your hero, and if they can't save you from yourself, there's often a handsome payday waiting when your own brutal idiocy causes you harm.

Incidentally, if you ever need to feel better about yourself, ask a personal injury lawyer to describe the unhygienic crap out of a company when some obnoxious turd blinds himself with a frying pan or demonstrates his simplicity in an equally astonishing way. You will either love capitalism or kill yourself—hell, maybe both.

And so, despite the fact that the negative effects of drinking alcohol during pregnancy have been common

knowledge for roughly 500 years, this proposed solution to absolutely nothing is presented with a straight face. In a perfect world, equal or greater attention would be paid to the vast collection of other problems found in a person who needs to be told to stay sober while pregnant, but I'd wear out this keyboard trying to investigate that particular can of worms.

I read an article on this topic the other day in which the most vocal advocate of liquor labels suggested that, since warnings are virtually everywhere these days, they should also be used in this case. What an unexpected surprise it was that she managed to miss the charming irony of the situation so completely.

Now, I'm not the sharpest knife in any drawer, but it seems to me that warning labels are only effective when they're used sparingly. Otherwise, it's just more meaningless text that people learn to ignore. Naturally, it makes perfect sense, then, to throw yet another painfully obvious warning into the mix alongside toilet brushes with a "Do not use internally" sticker. Meanwhile, potential hazards that actually justify the use of a warning label are diluted even further, a sea of staggeringly ridiculous reminders directed at cretins who aren't paying attention anyway. It's almost poetic—like watching a ship sink.

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You're not going to get youth viewers with 'bling bling'



ROB
FURSHEWICH

"All the plays givin' props to fly shorts spinning phat tracks on the get low, fo'shizzle on da schnitzel. No wangs in this crib, aight? What's happen when white people speak hip hop?" That was Mike Ross of the Sun, writing about Edmonton's new radio station, the Bounce. And yeah, Mike, I see it: it's horrifying, and way overboard. And it happens too often.

The latest media-urbanization craze in North America is usage of the term "bling"—or, specifically, "bling bling," cuz it's double the fo' stitze fun. It started in 2003, when the word was added to the Oxford English Dictionary's venerable lexicon. Webster's definition of bling bling is "jewelry, often gaudy or ostentatious," its etymology coming "from the sound it makes."

A search for "bling bling" among 4500 Google News sources turned up 307 articles, while "bling" turned up 1320, all within the past 30 days. That's 44 "bling bling" news pieces per day—including everything from the Ottawa

Citizen and Washington Post ("Stars of India: the Bling Bling in the Crown") to All-Baseball.com ("Cain and A-Rod—a Bling-Bling Rivalry") and the Pacific Business News ("Automakers also burnish their images by shipping bling-bling pre-production models," states one story).

It's another African-American invention co-opted by the mainstream white community and converted into a dull, heartless trend. Elvis allegedly stole rock n' roll from black people, and Eminem is, according to some, still in the process of jacking hip hop from its originators. Similarly, corporate America, thugged-out Caucasian mall rats, and the trend-following dimwit media have taken another piece of the African-American cultural pie—one whose few remaining pieces are denoted with the bite marks of corporate teeth.

CNN has used the word "bling" 50 times on the air in the last year, according to a Factiva search. Carol Lin, Miles O'Brien, Rick Sanchez, and Kelly Wallace, among many other anchors, have dropped the b-word so casually you'd expect them to be blasting at rival reporters, entourages outside New York radio stations and shopping at Jacob the Jeweller's with Nas and 50 Cent.

When serious journalists start behaving like Flip Dog in an effort to appeal

to the urban set and gain cool "street" points, I feel an urge to flip off the television, vivisect and torch my dad's *Western Living* magazine—whose latest issue also contained "bling bling" in an article about, of all things, sugar—and play my VHS copy of *Boyz II Men*, because at least there I can get a potent satirical view of ethnic cultural robbery, racial misidentification, and fake attempts to be "down," rather than seeing it live and direct during my mid-afternoon CNN.

On 17 February, CNN anchor Kelly Wallace dropped this on us: "Ahead in the next hour of Daybreak, judicial nominees. Sounds boring, but we'll tell you why you should care. And Rolling Stone tells us which acts can afford the most bling bling. You won't want to miss it. We'll be right back."

Do come back, Kelly. But please, before you return, tell your media associates to leave the bling-bling talk to the hustlers and ballers who originated it. just because something found its way into the dictionary and is adored by suburban youth—a group that, coincidentally, you'd love to gain viewers from for ratings and ad revenue purposes—doesn't mean you guys have to be so overbearing, obnoxious and gosh-darned white about it. Like, fo' shizzle on da schnitzel.



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Israel: divided by wire

Eight days to understand the conflict

Feature and photos by David Weatherall—Quebec Bureau Chief

TEL AVIV, Israel (CUP)—As I sat in the Azrieli towers in Tel Aviv watching female Israel Defense Force soldiers on leave, still dressed in full army fatigues with machine guns thrown over their shoulders, lingerie and other shopping in their hands, I started thinking about barbed wire. It's everywhere in Israel, keeping people in, keeping people out. It lines the fence cutting deep into the West Bank to protect illegal Jewish settlers to whom international law isn't meaningful, just as it rusts in the sands on the shores of the Dead Sea and in the earth around former Syrian bases in the Golan Heights.

Full disclosure: I was on a trip subsidized almost entirely by the United Israel Appeal of Canada, designed for non-Jewish students to gain a better understanding of the conflict. After eight days of touring and meeting people, several voices remain permanently lodged in my head.

The first is that of Moussa Abu-Hashash. His deadpan recount of a 15-year-old Palestinian boy from H1, the Palestinian-controlled side of Hebron, who IDF soldiers picked up one night, beat and then killed, was riveting. Abu-Hashash works for B'tselem, an Israeli human rights watch group. Every story he told and answer he gave was delivered matter-of-factly, but his eyes were drenched with regret and sadness.

The IDF soldiers at the checkpoint said he wasn't allowed to bring us to his home in H1 for security reasons, and that he was only allowed to cross onto the H2 side for 20 minutes. So, surrounded by the IDF bunker wrapped in barbed wire on one side and the lookout building on the other, he gave us a glimpse of what life was like for Palestinians living in Hebron.

Five Palestinian men were chatting amongst themselves while waiting at the checkpoint for their identification cards to be okayed before they could go to work in H2. I'd spent 20 minutes in the sun and was already sweating and thirsty; they'd been waiting for two hours when we got there. I don't speak Arabic, but I'd heard the same tone of resentment just a few minutes earlier, in a house on the Israeli side of the checkpoint.

A Jewish settler in H1 named Ruth spoke to us passionately about her strong ties to her home and her land. It wasn't until she started talking about living in a city where bullets crashing through your window at night are the norm that her gentle tone turned harsh.

The enemy does not want us here, she said. When the enemy shoots at me, are you going to help me? When I took a photo of her standing in her bedroom next to the cracked window where a Palestinian bullet had entered a few months beforehand, she seemed scared, resilient and convinced of her position, all at once.

We toured more of H2 and saw Jewish houses with bricks in the windows instead of glass to stop snipers' bullets. I wondered what it's like to live in a house with no natural light.

RETALIATION AGAINST RETALIATION

There are no straight lines in this region. Unless you're from here, it

is a maze, which took me little time to get lost in. What is clear in this mess of wire, wall, fence and soldiers is that people are suffering.

I'd never seen people under siege until we visited the town of Sderot, the closest village to the Gaza Strip within Israel's 1967 border. Crude Qassam rockets, built in metal shops in Gaza and launched by Hamas, have been falling on the village for almost three years now. One hit a kindergarten in June of last year and killed a four-year-old child and a 49-year-old man. In September, two more children were killed when another rocket fell on the town. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack and said it was in retaliation for the IDF invasion of the Jabalya refugee camp, which left four Palestinians dead.

Everything is a retaliation here.

The day we arrived, two rockets had hit the town in the morning, but had not caused serious injuries. The town's spokesperson greeted us in the mayor's office and told us why the constant shelling has not figured prominently in the international media, and how this could soon change.

This is where we are, he said, pointing to an aerial photograph of the town. This is where the rockets fell this morning, he said,

pointing to an intersection. And this is where Ariel Sharon has a ranch, he said, pointing to an area just outside the city's limits. When Hamas develops a Qassam rocket with sufficient range to strike this place, then you will hear about the Qassam rockets falling on Sderot.

At this point, a girl on the tour asked if the spokesperson could point out where we were sitting at that moment. Right here, he said, pointing to an area well within range.

When he took us to a mound overlooking Gaza City, I could make out the silhouette of an IDF helicopter against the sun setting over the dusty plains.

The next day I read an article in the *Jerusalem Post* detailing how an Israeli Air Force helicopter had taken out two Hamas operatives preparing to launch Qassam rockets into Sderot during the afternoon we were there.

Since I left, the situation in the area has deteriorated. Recently, a 17-year-old girl was critically wounded by a rocket. In response, Ariel Sharon has given the IDF free reign in Gaza to stop the rocket attacks. Then, an Israeli tank killed a 45-year-old woman and her child. It's clear it's not over yet.

continued on the next page



FEAR'S LASTING EFFECTS

The evidence of violence, present or past, is everywhere. When we visited the Jewish marketplace in Jerusalem, after making our way through the security checkpoint at either end, I got a sense of what a suicide bomb does to an area and to the people who work in it. The immediate impact is obvious—death, carnage, injuries and destruction—but the detonation has a much more lasting effect.

Everyone is wary of outsiders. I know how people who simply don't want their photo taken look at a photographer, but there was something different in the eyes of the fruit seller in the marketplace that I had to capture. The wariness in his face at an outsider in his familiar setting was unnerving, and for good reason. I would be frightened too if I were them. Everyone is a suspect if they're not known.

Earlier in the trip, we visited Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, where they bring the victims of suicide bombings. What looked like sprinklers in the drop-off point outside the emergency reception were, in fact, part of a system designed to keep the hospital running, even in case of biological or chemical attack. Bunker doors lined the far wall; behind them, emergency operating rooms are stocked and kept ready should the hospital be attacked. Planning for disaster is part of the everyday for doctors here. It's not unique in the world, but it was a first for me to witness.

It wasn't Mahmud Mustafa Ghishat's words that left an imprint in my mind; it was the two-year-old Palestinian's eyes. He stared deep into mine from the hospital bed in Tel Aviv, then turned and recognized the Jewish doctor who had saved his life, gazed at him, lifted his hands and grasped the doctor's palms. After spending so many hours learning about conflict, it was interesting to see the healing scene unfolding before us in the hospital ward.

For whatever reason you subscribe to—israeli occupation or corruption in the Palestinian Authority—those who need medical attention in the occupied territories are not receiving the care they need. In the void of medical know-how in the West Bank and Gaza and in other places around the globe, the Save a Child's Heart program was started to provide pediatric cardiac care for those in need.

The program takes in children with cardiac conditions that cannot be treated in their country or territory and houses their parents, usually for a period of about three months. It is run out of the Wolfson Medical Centre in Holon, just outside Tel Aviv, and relies 100 per cent on fundraising.

It also relies on cooperation from the IDF.

Because the IDF will not allow a Red Crescent ambulance through a checkpoint—it claims the ambulances have been used to smuggle bombs into Israel—one of the founding members of the organization, Dr Sion Houri, had to negotiate an agreement to guarantee quick passage for Palestinian children in need. Under the agreement, Houri is notified when a Red Crescent ambulance carrying a Palestinian child with a cardiac condition stops at a checkpoint. Houri then sends an ambulance from Wolfson Medical Centre to collect the child. When, or if, the parents' identification cards are cleared, another ambulance is sent for them.

"Things work a little differently here," he said.

Forty per cent of the children treated are Palestinians, but I also saw a seven-month-old baby named Xinyi Dong from the Chinese province Hebei and a three-year-old from Nigeria. To see children from all over the world draped in hospital blankets with Hebrew inscribed on them is a strong suggestion of the good Israel is capable of doing.

HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN ISRAEL PROPER

Some of what Israel does isn't so heartwarming, though. It was interesting to read, upon my return, an article by Bernard Avishai in Harper's magazine, in which he states: "A quarter of Israel's school children are Arabs. If Israel does nothing to reform itself, it will face another intifada in a generation—from within."

I don't know enough about the area to know what is sufficient cause to spark an intifada, but denying Arabs living in Israel the right to work in certain economic areas seems like a sure-fire way to at least spark intense civic unrest somewhere down the road. And the reality of being discriminated against based on ethnicity isn't something that is lost on the students I met with in the high school of the Arab village of Shab.

"I'm going to go work laying tiles next year," said one of the boys I spoke with. Most of the other kids I talked to saw general labourer jobs as their only future. Most didn't plan to finish their high-school studies.

They're not alone. Over 70 per cent of Arab boys living in Israel drop out; most, according to the English teacher at the school, because they are disillusioned with what they perceive as a glass ceiling for Arabs.



Bezeq, a major telecom company, and the Israel Electricity Company have Arab employees in the single figures, even though they have a combined staff of more than 20,000. Our tour guide Tzvi said bluntly, "Anywhere they're considered a security threat, they're basically not hired. Some companies also list military service as a prerequisite"—a qualification most Arab Israelis don't have because it is not required for them to enlist.

I looked on the website of *Ha'aretz*, one of Israel's daily newspapers, for articles on discrimination in the workplace. One of the most blatant examples read: "Hassan Agavriya and Muhammad Kadah, students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem were looking for a side job when they saw the ad for 'unskilled workers to sort mail.' They called and were invited for an interview. When they came in, and the interviewer asked their names, they responded 'Hassan' and 'Mohammed.' The interviewer immediately told them that the position had been filled. Curious, Hassan called the firm two days later, only to hear that the position was still available."

After walking up to the classroom, through hallways with posters inscribed with "Equality for Arabs," we met with a classroom of students learning English. There was a buzz about the school, I suppose created by the twelve westerners visiting this relatively small village high school, and while the teachers and most of the students received us gracefully, there was one incident I will not forget.

After conversing with the students upstairs and reaching the limits of how much we were able to communicate with each other, I suggested playing a game of soccer outside in the courtyard. Sport is a universal language, I figured.

While we were waiting outside, a crowd of other students gathered around me, another student on the trip and the security guard, Hezi. None of us spoke Arabic and so we couldn't understand the inquisitive youth gathered around us.

Out of the corner of my eye, in the midst of the chaotic high-school babbble, I caught a kid about eleven or twelve fingering a large pair of stainless steel scissors. At first I thought he was coming from an arts and crafts class, but when he began making slitting motions with the scissors in the air I got a little worried and so did Hezi. He kept circling around the outside of the group gathered around us and Hezi told us not to look at him. I couldn't help it. Just as I looked up, an older boy came running down the stairs, yelled at the group and two boys brought the kid with scissors into another building. I never saw him again.

The soccer game proceeded without incident and we left, myself, Hezi and the other student, feeling a little uneasy and not really knowing what to think. I've never wanted to be able to speak Arabic so much. I wanted to ask him if he was just being a kid and acting up for strangers, or if there was resentment towards outsiders. I'm sure the answer

wouldn't have been simple.

DRUZE LOGIC

There was no feeling of uneasiness when we visited the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the north of the Golan Heights, where we were greeted by a local secular Druze man. Tzvi had warned us that most people would like to convert to Druze after meeting with a Druze individual and, after two minutes of listening to him speak, I would have signed off my atheism and hopped on the Druze train.

"If you look at the Druze religion, we took the best bits of all the great religions—Islam, Judaism, Christianity—mixed in some Roman philosophy, et cetera, and put it all together," he said, while standing on top of what looked like a large cement bomb shelter.

"This is our cemetery," he said with a smile. He was the first person I'd met on the trip who had a sense of humour about his religion.

"The Druze believe that you are reborn as something else 15 minutes after you die," he continued. "So we don't do ceremonial burials; we put the dead in a coffin for a few days and then let their bodies decompose in here," he said, gesturing to what looked like a manhole cover on top of the bunker. "You are standing on a lot of dead Druze right now," he said, again with a smile.

He spoke of great Druze warriors who did not fear death because of the 15-minute rebirth guarantee, and he spoke of Druze apples, famous the world over. He spoke of occupation by Arabs and Jews. The Druze people, he said, have essentially resigned themselves to fighting for whoever is occupying them at the time. He said it's easier that way.

It was the one time during the trip that something seemed simple.

G

Israel by the numbers

Number of positions in the civil service: 55,448

Number of Arabs in the civil service: 3,329

Number of university faculty members in Israel: 5,000

Number of Arab university faculty members in Israel: 50

Number of Israel Electric Corporation employees: 13,000

Number of Arab Israel Electric Corporation employees: 6

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE



Trooper
with SIN Band

Red's
Friday, 18 March at 7pm

An ageless Canadian rock band, Trooper is back in Edmonton to celebrate 30 years of musical success including sold-out shows, millions of record sales, a few dozen hits and a Juno Award. Their memorabilia is on display at the National Library of Canada, one in 40 Canadians owns their *Hot Shots* album, and they've been dubbed the nation's "number one party band," (though I couldn't tell you by whom). The band, a rock n' roll legend, graces the Red's stage this Friday.

Rock N
with Deadcity Serpents
Seed's
Friday, 18 March at 8pm

The whole tongue-in-cheek stadium-rock act gimmick may be so two years ago (*The Darkness*, anyone?), but Rock N would beg to differ. The Vancouver-by-way-of-Cincinnati band's balls will be against the wall this Friday at Seed's as they perform a show they're calling "The Greatest Rock n' Roll Story Ever Told," a rock opera about the epic rise and fall of the band. Plenty of tunes will be played along the way—many with the band's name in the title—and plenty of audience members will be "rocked."



Pete Tong
Escape Ultra Lounge
Sunday, 20 March at 9pm

Chances are you haven't heard of Pete Tong, which is a shame, really, because he's one of the most recognizable DJs in the UK, and his popularity is quickly expanding into the US, Australia and the Far East.

Starting out as a humble mobile DJ during his teens, Tong's become synonymous with dance music. He's a producer, radio personality and filmmaker. If you're bored with your weekend routine at The Standard, break the cycle and witness Tong at work.

ASIA SZKUDLAREK & LEAH COLLINS
Lady-Lords of Time



Worth its weight in flesh

The Merchant of Venice would do William Shakespeare proud

The Merchant of Venice

Directed by Michael Radford
Starring Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons, Joseph Fiennes
and Lynn Collins
Now Playing

GRAHAM PARSONS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In 1996, Al Pacino made *Looking for Richard*, an underrated documentary about a production of *Richard III*. In its opening scene, Pacino comes on stage to greet the audience, which consists of exactly one person—the only person he's worried about doing right by—William Shakespeare.

It was this image that stayed with me while watching *The Merchant of Venice*, director Michael Radford's (*Il Postino*) adaptation of what has been called the most popular and controversial work of the immortal bard. And it's certainly controversial—perhaps more so today than in its own time.

Despite being the most liberal city-state in Europe, Venice in 1596 was not a fun place to be Jewish. Jews were scorned by the Christian majority, and not allowed to own property. So, many practiced loan sharking, which only added to "legitimate" Christian businessmen's disdain for the Jewish population.

One such Christian is Bassanio (Joseph Fiennes), who, infatuated with beautiful widow Portia (Lynn Collins), seeks assistance from his good friend Antonio (Jeremy Irons) to contend with two other wealthy suitors. Antonio's money is tied up in various business ventures, so the two must venture into the Jewish ghetto in search of Shylock (Al Pacino), a money lender. Shylock agrees to lend the money, but with a somewhat disturbing caveat: if the sum is not paid back in

three months, the compensation will be a pound of Antonio's flesh. Despite Bassanio's objections to this grisly bargain, Antonio agrees, assuming that it will never come to this. Bassanio is successful in his wooing, but Antonio encounters a series of financial failures that result in his being stripped of a chair and a count of 100. Shylock stands over him brandishing a knife.

What makes this film work is that director Michael Radford wrote a screen adaptation that omits much from the original, which included a large comic element. Cinema hasn't taken on *Merchant* since the silent era, and the rise of Nazism, in addition to the decades that have followed, allow us to perceive anti-Semitism in a new light. Radford is right to narrow the film's focus to the drama surrounding the religious persecution, and stereotypical avarice, of the Jewish people.

The film is equally evocative in its beautifully textured set design, with the rich shadow-play of candlelight illuminating bourgeois excess in the dark corners of Venice. What shines brightest, however, are the performances. Depth is added to every character, even those in seemingly inconsequential roles, by actors dedicated to their craft. Lynn Collins in particular adds a warmth and wisdom to the beautiful Portia, with Irons and Fiennes filling out their roles equally well. But the real standout, unsurprisingly, is Pacino; Shylock is an ambiguous character who is seemingly barbaric in his demands for personal and religious retribution, but also elicits sympathy due to his unfortunate place in the world.

So what would Shakespeare think of this effort? Bearing in mind that Radford's treatment has allowed issues raised hundreds of years ago to resonate with a contemporary audience, I suspect he'd approve.

Coldspot's got a soft spot for local bands

Coldspot

with Euphoric and Chalkline
SideTrack Café
Saturday, 19 March at 8pm

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For all the cliché talk about music bringing people together, bands can be downright mean-spirited. But just when you think all the fighting is enough to make you shed some tears, local rockers Coldspot manage to bring a bit of love into the industry.

In fact, the band openly fosters a mandate to promote indie music, an unselfish act given their own status as a relatively independent act. Since their inception in 2000, the band has been breaking down cross-town rivalries, going against hope that everyone can just get along.

"As soon as there is a band from the same town that is doing well, other bands start to get really catty, for lack of a better word," says Floyd Cole, lead singer for the local four-piece. "They start to get defensive and start 'posturing wars' where they try to put their name over someone else's. I've always felt that if there's a band in town that is doing really well, that only draws more attention to the area, which is good for everyone."

This tenet has worked for the Edmonton-born musicians. The group's enjoyed frequent radio play and has been the darling of local media. They're releasing their sophomore album *Like There Was No Tomorrow* this week, and are planning their show around the principles that have been bringing them good musical karma for four years. Coldspot is known for putting together indie shows that give some of Edmonton's lesser-known bands an audience, and their upcoming CD-release party is no exception. The band has chosen two new bands—Euphoric and Chalkline—to open.

"We want them to get some exposure so that when they are doing their CD-release shows they go into it with a bit of clout. We really like their music, and hopefully for them it will be a chance to open some doors," says Cole.

"As soon as there is a band from the same town that is doing well, other bands start to get really catty, for lack of a better word."

FLOYD COLE, LEAD SINGER, COLDSPOT

But Coldspot's latest release proves they haven't refrained from focusing on their own musical endeavours. Driven by an aggressive arrangement of guitar riffs and spot-on vocals by Cole, the band displays an obvious level of maturity and talent in their songwriting that's earned them both local success and the beginnings of mainstream attention.

"Our first record was made about three months after the band formed, and by the time it was released almost seven months later, it wasn't really a good indication of where we were at as a band. On this album we selected songs that would make the strongest album from a listener's standpoint—basically the 14 best songs that would have continuity for an hour of music," says Cole.

The overall theme is from the perspective of being a young rock n' roll band that is approaching every show and performance with the idea that this is the only thing that anyone ever hears, or if this is the only time that Coldspot gets to impact anyone with a recording, it should hold us in good standing. We approach everything like it is our one and only chance."

Oh, I'm just wild about Harry

There's no basis for comparison, but this is the best Canadian spy spoof ever

Harry Knuckles and the Pearl Necklace

Directed by Lee Demarbre
Starring Phil Caracas, Nancy Riehle,
Emma Malone, Josh Grace
and Jeff Moffet
Metro Cinema
18-19 March at 9pm

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Harry Knuckles and the Pearl Necklace has all the ingredients of a campy '70s-era James Bond flick: cheesy one-liners, larger-than-life enemies, sultry femme fatales and an endless bombardment of hemlines.

The only missing ingredient is Roger Moore, but with the substitution of a Mexican wrestler and many other wacky characters, Harry Knuckles could very well be the best low-budget Canadian-made action film (and spy spoof) ever made.

And the movie's success relies on its title character. Upon hearing Harry's memorable one-liner, "Smells like fish, taste like pain," the audience learns Harry Knuckles (Phil Caracas)—aka Agent Spanish Fly—is a man who shouldn't be messed with, unlike other spy-spoof characters, such as Maxwell Smart of *Get Smart* or Austin Powers.

When a valuable pearl necklace is stolen from a local museum, Harry is recruited to locate and retrieve the treasure. He must also capture the perpetrator of the crime, the Bionic Bigfoot. But the mission won't be an easy task: Harry must fight his way through many villains and assassins—including Virtual Girl, the Leopard Lady, a mini assassin and a mad bagpiper—only to finally confront his arch-nemesis/evil twin, Fuzzy Knuckles (also Caracas).



sins—including Virtual Girl, the Leopard Lady, a mini assassin and a mad bagpiper—only to finally confront his arch-nemesis/evil twin, Fuzzy Knuckles (also Caracas).

Fortunately, with Harry's kung-fu moves, his gung-ho attitude and an endless supply of bananas, he is determined to fulfill his mission, aided by his childhood friend El Santos (Jeff Moffet), a Mexican wrestling hero.

Despite having all the ingredients for a perfect spy spoof, *Harry Knuckles* has its shortcomings. The film has too many fight scenes, most of which are poorly choreographed—albeit in the hope of eliciting some cheap laughs from the audience.

The fight scenes contribute to the film's non-stop action, but they eventually become too repetitive and tiresome to watch.

Fortunately, the soundtrack is rich with '80s-style synthesizer music, making viewers feel as if they're watching a movie filmed in 1984, rather than 2004. One scene even had sound effects and music that were clearly ripped straight out of an old-school eight-bit Nintendo game.

Despite its drawbacks, *Harry Knuckles* should be judged for what it is—a low-budget B-grade Canadian-made spoof. It's so Canadian, the movie doesn't even show any firearms being fired or operated—only hand-to-hand combat is shown. Though the film lacks million-dollar Hollywood special effects, the film is great fun to watch, and it's probably the best (and only) Canadian-made action film to hit the big screen this year.

There were never such devoted sisters

The Ennis Sisters

with Brock Skywalker
and the Irregular Heartbeats
Starlite Room
Friday, 18 March at 8pm

YING-YING LEE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

You'd think the Ennis Sisters would be sick of each other by now.

After all, these real-life sisters have been performing together since they were young children back in their hometown of St. John's, Newfoundland. But the three can't get enough of sisterly companionship.

Talking on the phone with middle sister Karen Ennis it's clear these sisters are virtually inseparable.

And while their sisterly bond largely contributes to their musical cohesion, they did run into challenges as Karen, along with Maureen and Teresa, matured both musically and personally.

"We've always been really close," Karen explains. "Our parents kept us really close as children growing up. That may not always be so healthy because there did come a time when we didn't really have our own identities. There was no individuality; when one person was away, it didn't feel like it was right."

Today, separate identities intact, the Ennis Sisters are focused on developing their musical identity.

Often compared to The Dixie Chicks and The Corrs, their careful blend of contemporary and traditional musical styles infused with folk and Celtic influences makes simple categoriza-

tion difficult.

"As artists, you always hate to be labelled. You just want to do what you do and put it out there."

"But, that became one of our challenges: 'What are you girls? Are you Celtic?'" says Karen. "The songs there, it's just how you colour them. The instruments you use in them determine what genre it's going to go in."

"People need to know where to find you if they walk into a record store. If they're listening to the radio, what station are they going to hear you on? So as artists, it's unfortunate that has to happen, but that's just the way it goes," she adds.

The difficulty of defining their genre is just one of the lessons the group has learned over the years. Apparently, all their hard work has paid off. Each of their albums—from 1997's independent *Red* to the Rose to their last release on Warner, *Can't Be the Same*—have received plenty of praise and attention.

After a number of independent and major-label releases, and a slew of awards and accolades, including a 2002 JUNO for "Best New Country Group," the Ennis Sisters are now armed and ready to release a new album sometime this year.

"Now when we come together we're stronger and we respect each other," says Karen.

"We have our goals set out for us right now and we're just going to go for it. We're all pulling in the same direction and wherever this takes us, then that's where we're going to be."



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The Tango project is 'the ultimate 'screw you''

The Tango Project

Winspear Centre
Friday, 18 March at 8pm

SARAH CHAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's the music and dance that made the *Moulin Rouge* version of The Police's "Roxanne" dirty and sexy. It's the music that makes everything sexier in general. I'm talking, of course, about the tango.

"To do a tango is sort of a fall from grace, an acceptance of karma," explains William Schimmel, accordionist and co-founder of the aptly named Tango Project. The trio also includes Mary Rowell playing violin and Michael Sahl on piano.

Tango is much like Argentine blues. The difference is in real blues there's always an implication of hope; the tango is reminiscent of romantic failure and existential despair. The tango expects all of that but the trick is that you go down and out, but you do it in style. It's the ultimate 'screw

you.'

Schimmel describes the circumstances surrounding his initial involvement in The Tango Project back in 1981 when the group had its first great success with their self-titled debut album: "I'm classically trained and have a doctorate in composition from Julliard which is as 'inside' as it gets, but I'm also an accordionist which is as 'outside' as you get. Now, my reputation is as an accordionist; the more I fell from grace, the more my career has taken off."

The reason why The Tango Project has heralded such acclaim is because of their ability to evolve and lend their own creative twist to tango music.

Schimmel recounts that when The Tango Project first started playing together, they would mimic old recordings of tango, producing a sound that they felt was lacking something.

Only when they started experimenting did they develop a sound that, ironically, was more authentic than their previous attempts.

"We tried to form our own vernacular in the sort of pleasure zone of the tango instead of imitating it. It was almost ghost-like, yet very fresh. We did them with more edge, a little punkier, like the old Argentine guys, but in our own way."

As for their sound, Schimmel describes it as "a visceral sound that transcends" or, more specifically, "Brahms on tequila." Chances are good that you've heard The Tango Project, as their music has been featured in movies including *Scent of a Woman* and *True Lies* as well as a number of television series.

"We've done *Sex and the City* and *Bravo's Real Sex* ... there's a lot of sex, actually," says Schimmel. As for the PG realm, the group also did the Muppet tango for *Sesame Street*.

But there'll be no Muppets or sexy TV stars performing with the Tango Project Friday night; local dance outfit Tango Sutra will be performing for free pieces.

"In Buenos Aires they say that

dancers are another instrument in



TOO SEXY TO TANGO Dancers from Edmonton's Tango Sutra.

the tango," explains Tamara Eder, a dancer from Tango Sutra. "With tango you don't stop learning. You can be 80 years old and have danced tango your whole life and you still learn. It grows with you and evolves and that complexity is what makes it interesting."

Schimmel offers a similar perspective: "Learning to tango really helped with my playing. It became physical-

CULTURA OBSCURA



Velvet Vulva

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Women are never without something that has forever fascinated the opposite sex: a vital and mysterious abyss containing strange and unspeakable things. I'm talking, of course, about purses.

And with a Velvet Vulva handbag, the testosterone-pumping sex will hardy be able to keep their hands off, or out of, your purse.

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LEANNE PONG

HOLD ME CLOSER, B-BOY DANCER Dancers from Edmonton's Spare Parts crew head-spin in the Main Gym. The crew was competing in Divided By Style, an event hosted by U of A student group Expressive Elements Hip Hop Club on Saturday, 12 March. B-boys from across Western Canada competed for a \$1000 prize (Calgary's Original Rudes took it home). The day also featured musical performances and an urban art exhibition.



Captain Tractor
North of the Yellowhead
Six Shooter Records
www.captaintractor.com

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

It turns out that a majority of the songs on Captain Tractor's latest album, *North of the Yellowhead*, were written by the band.

After listening to it, that comes as a surprise—I could've sworn that the album was their tribute to the best of generic pop-country.

It still sounds like Captain Tractor, insofar as the voices are rock voices and the mandolin and Hammond organ tend to take precedence over the electric guitar.

But while their earlier efforts—you may recall "Up the Hill" from the album *East of Edson*, which made a splash on Power 92 in the '90s—were a fun mix of rock and Celtic-folk sen-

sibilities, the writing on *Yellowhead* sounds like it's straight from the pen of the one guy who seems to write everything that comes out of Nashville these days, except played with a bit of a Celtic twist.

"Big American Headliner," for instance, could easily be Toby Keith's next big, boring number-one hit, while—aside from the lame pseudoswearing—"Slididy Day" sounds like a filler track on the album of nearly any male hot-country singer.

It's not all bad (and it certainly sounds better than most pop-country), but even fans of the Tractor will likely be disappointed with this watered-down release.

The Students' Union & Tobacco Reduction Project Present

FROM THE GROUND UP CHARITY GALA

March 19th

5pm-10pm, Dinwoodie Lounge SUB UofA Campus

Formal/semi-formal event. No Minors

Advance Tickets \$10 available from: SUB, HUB, CAB & ETLC Info Desks & Ticketmaster. Tickets are also available at the door.

From The Ground Up, a Charity Gala aimed at raising funds for the Free The Children network. Student art will be on display and select pieces auctioned off to raise funds to build and outfit a school in the war ravaged region of Sierra Leone.

The event will feature live music, drama, improv, dance and fashion. There will be a complimentary wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres.



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Golden Bears take their hoop dreams to Halifax

After a rocky start, the Bears have been improving all season and seem ready to peak at the best possible time

HOOPS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

If that's true, they can credit their all-around team game. In the last six weeks they've almost magically come together to knock off teams that have been touted to be the Bears' superiors.

"We have a very deep bench," veteran guard Tyson Jones said. "The starters, they're the same as the bench players, skill-wise."

"There's no reason for me to doubt these guys. Two weekends in a row, in Calgary and Saskatchewan, was basically a test of character, a test of will. We might lose in Halifax, but it's not going to be because of a lack of character or a lack of will. Right now we're playing as well as we can at this time of the year, so we have every reason to be optimistic."

**DON HORWOOD,
GOLDEN BEARS HEAD COACH**

The third-year guard out of Winnipeg noted that after an admittedly rocky start, the team has gelled at the perfect time.

"At the beginning of the season we didn't know our roles as much, but as the season progressed and as the players came back from injuries everybody got to know their roles and the team chemistry got better," he said. "We have

a lot of talented guys on this team and once we got the chemistry back it was game over from there."

The Bears will face their biggest challenge thus far in St FX, a team that boasts two members of the under-21 Canadian national team in Gary Gallimore and Neil MacDonald. However, that doesn't seem to matter to Bears head coach Don Horwood, who has an undying faith in his squad that was bolstered by two playoff series wins on the road.

"There's no reason for me to doubt these guys," he said. "Two weekends in a row, in Calgary and Saskatchewan, was basically a test of character, a test of will. We might lose in Halifax, but it's not going to be because of a lack of character or a lack of will. Right now we're playing as well as we can at this time of the year, so we have every reason to be optimistic."

Horwood said the Bears do have their work cut out for them against the X-Men, but that he feels his team is ready.

"[St FX is] a very good team. I think the key to them is their guards. They've got some great guards who have been shooting well. We've been through this before and we'll manage it with these guys. They've got good guards, posts, they're solid. But then again, so does Brandon, so does Calgary, UBC, UVic and so does Saskatchewan; they're not going to give us something we haven't seen."

The Bears and X-Men will take to the court tomorrow at 4pm MST at the Halifax Metro Centre. Should the Bears advance, they'll likely play the top-ranked Carleton Ravens, the defending CIS champions who are currently riding a 7-game unbeaten streak, in one semifinal at 7pm Saturday, a game that will be broadcast live on TSN. The other Saturday semifinal, at 4pm, will also be on TSN, as will the 2:30pm Sunday final.



FILE PHOTO/LEANNE FONG

Getting to know basketball's best: a guide to the Final 10



THE OUTSIDERS The Vikes are seeded sixth.

CUP—From today to Sunday, ten teams will participate in the CIS Final 10 men's basketball national championships, hosted at the Metro Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Here are the teams, in order of seeding, and what you need to look for this weekend.

Carleton Ravens (1)

The CIS top-ranked Ravens are two-time defending champions. After defeating Ottawa and Brock en route to their third-straight Ontario University Athletics championship, the Ravens' winning streak in regular- and post-season play reached 75 straight games. Head coach Dave Smart leads the team, which includes standout players like guard Mike Smart and CIS MVP Osvaldo Jeanty, who has scored an average of 16.9 points per game.

Maureen Robinson, the Fulcrum

Concordia Stingers (2)

In their first visit to the big dance since 2001, the Stingers are the smallest team in the CIS championships. But it's their speed and ability to execute before their opponents can react that has earned them their high ranking. The tournament's second seed had a dominant 15-1 regular season and went on to win the Québec title last week-

end. Conference MVP Philippe Langlois directs the offense and sets up all-stars Patrick Perreault and Ben Sormone.

Dan Plouffe, the Link

Brock Badgers (3)

Brock does it well both inside and outside, utilizing the strength of their seniors and a balanced bench attack. Kevin Stienstra, the OUA MVP, is a staple down low; the Badgers rely on him for 20-plus points every night, as well as multiple trips to the foul line. Long-time head coach Ken Murray guides the second-ranked team in the nation and hopes to repeat their national championship run of 1991-92.

Rob Terpstra, the Brock Press

St Francis Xavier X-Men (4)

The X-Men celebrated a victory at the Atlantic University Sport basketball final on 12 March against Saint Mary's—their fifth AUS crown in six years. X-Men guard Garry Gallimore is undoubtedly the team's secret weapon with honours like Final Six MVP and AUS defensive player of the year under his belt. Other top scorers are guards Zach Russell and forward Neil MacDonald.

Maureen Robinson, the Fulcrum

Alberta Golden Bears (5)

"We're the team that nobody wants to face," said Alberta guard Mike Melnychuk after the Golden Bears won the Canada West banner on 5 March. And how true that is. Having upset Calgary and Saskatchewan on the road, stunning Brandon in overtime, and then trouncing Victoria in the Canada West championship game, the Bears head to Halifax as a team that, until 1 March, hadn't cracked the CIS top-ten rankings all season. The dark horse in Halifax this year will be disguised as a Golden Bear.

Chris O'Leary, the Gateway

Victoria Vikes (6)

Hovering around the middle of the pack in the CIS top ten, the Vikes have had an astounding season. They finished second overall within the tough Canada West and first in the Pacific Division. They defeated the UBC Thunderbirds in two straight games to make it into the Canada West finals, but lost to Alberta in the gold-medal game, coming away with silver. The team is led by recently named Canada West defensive player of the year and first-team all-star Chris Trumpp, and conference coach of the year Craig Beaupain.

Mike Berry, the Martlet

PLEASE SEE FINAL 10 • PAGE 25



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I have a confession to make: I'm only capable of loving losers

From the Flames to the Expos, my teams are destined for only sporadic greatness—if, that is, they can even survive at all



ROSS
PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports
Commentary

After nearly two years of pontificating from these hallowed pages on many sporting issues, I have a confession to make to you, my dear readers. As a sports fan, I fear my confession isn't as trivial as telling you that I'm in love or dying or have been plagiarizing from ESPN.com, but something far worse.

For you see, dear reader, despite my vast knowledge and love of sports, I have the unfortunate affliction of only loving teams that are more pathetic than Barry Bond's steroid denials.

All my life, while all of my friends were able to support any team—regardless of sport—that was excellent, I could only muster my support for the teams that failed even to qualify for lovable loser status. The Calgary Flames, Stampeders, and Cannons, Hartford Whalers and Montréal Expos—my list of favourite teams is a laundry list of losers and heartbreak. And every time one was on the cusp of greatness—or at least a decent season—fate would find a way to knock them back into the shadows and a cycle of appalling play.

My relative youth has prevented me from recalling the glory days of the Flames and the single cup. While seven years of futility drove my friends' attention to other teams and their successes, my heart ached only for the flaming C. No quantity of bad draft picks, trades for Rick Tabarac or threats to move to Oklahoma could make me worship at the unholy altar of another team. It may have been a lonely tenure on the bandwagon, but the legroom was great and my foolish heart just wouldn't allow me to abandon the floundering franchise.

The Calgary Flames,
Stampeders and
Cannons, Hartford
Whalers and Montréal
Expos—my list of
favourite teams is a
laundry list of losers
and heartbreak.

Even when the play wasn't appalling on the field, only the teams I love could manage to be run by such a series of Keystone cops. Enduring the Glen Sather and Peter Pocklington Show is nothing compared to the morons who have run my beloved Stamps. From "enjoying" the spectacle of your team's owner being led out in

handcuffs (Larry Ryckman) or making decisions to best serve their own son (Michael Peterlik), if you've never had such colourful characters leading your beloved club, you've never truly known suffering. The years and operations under these losers would make even the hardest soul want to laugh, but only after a good cry.

While pathetic ownership and bad seasons happen, nothing compares to having three of my beloved teams snatched away from me. No longer can I hear the echo of "Brass Bonanza" after each goal the Whalers score, hear the roar of the cannon after a homer at Burns Stadium or see Yuki work his magic on the dozens of fans at the Big O. As much as I yearn to watch these terrible teams in oft, the poor substitutes of the Nationals, Hurricanes and the Isotopes aren't enough to fill the void in my soul. My lovable losers are no more.

As bad as these tales of suffering are, I'm not passing them along to elicit sympathy, but rather to educate. While some of these teams have gone to the big clubhouse in the sky, the others have turned things around. And while my record of being a fan of the most pathetic sports teams has diminished lately as the ones that remain have improved, I can rest assured that fate will once again take my teams down a notch—just to ensure that any team I love and support will always be a loser.

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Unproven steroid allegations shouldn't taint Barry Bonds' amazing athleticism



PAUL
OWEN
Sports
Commentary

Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, and the birds are hopping up on FGH. So too are the Yankees, the Giants and the Rangers. In fact, many of the biggest names in baseball have found themselves testifying in front of Congress in regards to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative (BALCO) scandal. According to Jose Canseco, who at this point will do anything to make money, including selling out former teammates and friends, BALCO provided dozens of major leaguers with steroids, including superstars such as Rafael Palmeiro and Mark McGwire.

The biggest name on BALCO's dirty list is also the guy with the biggest head in baseball: Barry Bonds. Bonds, who consistently leads the league in most offensive categories, including swearing at the media, is the single-season home run record-holder after belting 73 in 2001—24 more than he has hit in any other season. But while his home-run numbers might be tainted by steroids, it doesn't make Bonds any less of an amazing ath-

lete and the most dangerous hitter in history.

Bonds has hit over .340 for the past three seasons, and, despite being walked more than anyone ever, has still managed to hit over 40 home runs per season in that span. His OPS (on-base percentage plus slugging percentage) is higher than mine was last summer in my slo-pitch beer league.

Most of the Bonds backlash comes from his character. He's a cocky African-American player who's been surly with the media his entire career and who is systematically putting himself ahead of some of the most beloved athletes in the game ...

While the power may be an advantage of being juiced up, Bonds still has some of the best hand-eye coordination in the game, a factor that can't be aided by anything you can buy in a pharmacy in Cuba.

Most of the Bonds backlash comes from his character. He's a cocky African-American player who's been surly with the media his entire career and who is systematically putting himself ahead of some of the most beloved athletes in the game—names such as McGwire, Ruth, Mays and Aaron. Bonds is the typical athlete you love to hate: Major League Baseball's version of Kobe Bryant. McGwire readily admitted to being on androstenedione, an over-the-counter muscle enhancer, when hitting 70 homers, yet it didn't stop him from becoming a huge celebrity with millions in McDonald's endorsements. Bonds, on the other hand, has yet to admit to being on steroids, yet his name comes up in every conversation about them, and most people assume he is guilty.

Whether or not Bonds actually is on theroids, he is still a terrific baseball player who can hit for average and field adequately. While he may not run as well as he used to, he still steals bases without getting caught, despite his age (he'll turn 41 this summer). It's rare for an athlete to be able to maintain his skills into his mid-30s, let alone into his 40s, and Bonds has only gotten better. It's time to stop accusing the guy and recognize him for the talent he is. After all, there's more to this game than the long ball.

Bottom four seeds need to win four games in four days, but still confident they can impress

FINAL 10 • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Waterloo Warriors (7)

The Warriors bring a veteran presence to the CIS championship with seven players on the squad in their final two years of eligibility. With a strong back-court presence in OUA first-team all-star Graham Jarman as well as strength up front in second-team all-stars Dave Munkley and Mike Sovran, the Warriors could surprise in Halifax.

Dan Micak, the Imprint

Mario Joseph to earn their place in Halifax. Although their eighth seed means they must win four games in four days to claim the championship, the Bobcats hope to make up for last year's heartbreaking defeat by UNB in the first round of the tournament.

Maureen Robinson, the Fulcrum

Ottawa Gee-Gees (9)

Ottawa is going in as the number-nine seed and making their first appearance at a national championship since 1993. But ask any fan of the Gee-Gees if they're satisfied just going to Halifax and the answer is a resounding "no." The team will look for leadership from team captains Marko Jovic and Alex McLeod, while relying on the production of Jermaine Campbell. To get to the championship, Ottawa knocked off York on the road before losing to number-one

Carleton in the OUA East final.

Melanie Ho, the Fulcrum

Saint Mary's Huskies (10)

Saint Mary's struggled in an up-and-down campaign that saw them finish the regular season with an 11-9 conference record. An upset victory over the nationally tenth-ranked Capers qualified them as a wild-card entry for the 2010. The Huskies were led all season by Baltimore-native Jerome Goodman (18.1 points and 9.4 rebounds per game), Nelson Carvery (15.2 PPG), and Jonathan Thibault (13.6 PPG). They'll be in tough as they enter the tournament as the bottom seed. They will need to take advantage of the familiar Metro Centre confines and get strong games from Goodman, Carvery, and Thibault.

Bill Hughes, the Journal

SPORTS SHORTS

Men's Basketball

There are no Golden Bears or Pandas events at home this weekend, but if you just can't shake the urge for some live postsecondary sporting action, you're in luck, as the NAIT Owls will host the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association men's basketball national championship this weekend. In addition to the eighth-seeded Owls, the third-seeded Grant

MacEwan Griffins, led by former Golden Bear forward Robbie Valpreda, will represent Edmonton in the tournament. Games will run throughout the day, beginning at 1pm today and tomorrow, and 10am Saturday, culminating in the gold-medal game Saturday at 8pm. All games will be held on the NAIT campus in the NAIT Gymnasium.

Men's Hockey

The Moncton Aigles Bleu beat the Acadia Axemen 3-2 in double overtime

on Tuesday to take game five of the best-of-five Atlantic University Sport championship and earn the lone AUS berth in next week's University Cup national championship. All six participants have now been decided: they are the Aigles Bleu, the Golden Bears, the Saskatchewan Huskies, the Manitoba Bisons, the Western Mustangs and the UQTR Patriotes. The University Cup begins a week from today, and on Tuesday and Thursday of next week, the Gateway will preview all six participants in the tournament.



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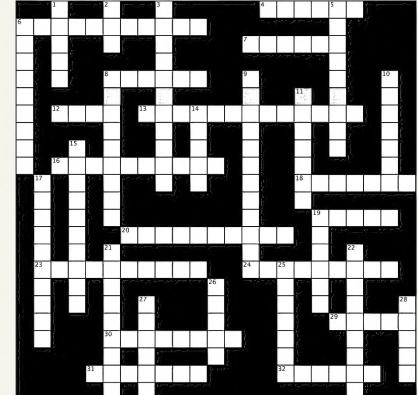
What rattles in an envelope and makes us think of calling Campus Security?

The Granola that AIPRG sent us of course.

IRIS 181

CROSSWORD

The Cartoonword: compiled by Scott C Bourgeois. The Crossword runs every Thursday with answers in the following Tuesday issue.



Across

- These little blue forest sprites were only three apples tall.
- He is the terror in the night, and the brooding, Babt-esque star of his own cartoon.
- The name of the character who utterly ruined any Scooby Doo series he appeared in.
- The name of the main character on The Ewoks.
- This series was a crappier version of The Transformers featuring robots from another world that transformed into cars.
- The name of Alvin, Simon and Theodore's father on The Chipmunks.
- By your powers combined, this mulleted superhero would help save the world from pollution.
- The name of The Shredder's rhino henchman on Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.
- This Care Bears kept watch over the Earth, stopping this villain from spreading bad feelings.
- The name of the cartoon rock-star was the leader of the band the Holograms.
- The wizard Merklyn offers magical power in the form of animal totems in this short-lived fantasy cartoon.
- Penny's dog on the Inspector Gadget cartoon.
- Hey, hey, hey!
- In this series, based on the Bionic Man, Jack Bannet and his family use their super-powers to save the world from the evil Dr. Scarab.
- This transformer could change into a ghetto-blaster, but was far the coolest of The Transformers.
- To become He-Man, Prince Adam would hold his sword aloft and shout "By the Power of...
- Gl Joe was a special forces unit dedicated to opposing the evil
- The Flintstones was based on this live-action television series.

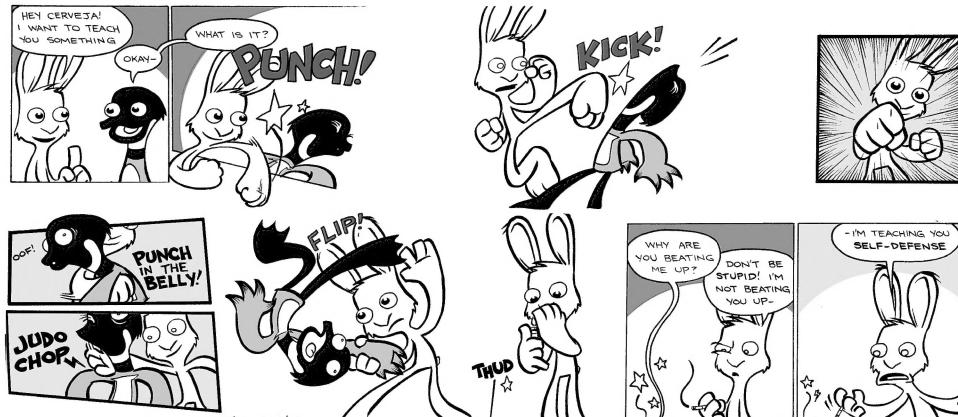
Down

- You watched the Super Mario Brothers Super Show, but in reality you only tuned in to watch this weekly feature starring the brash hero Link.
- This cartoon rock-star was the leader of the band the Holograms.
- The wizard Merklyn offers magical power in the form of animal totems in this short-lived fantasy cartoon.
3. The name of the character who utterly ruined any Scooby Doo series he appeared in.
32. This trio of forest critters writes for the Evergreen Standard, and helps oppose evil tycoon Cyril Sneer.
44. Captain Bucky O'Haire led his heroic crew of animals in a war against this evil amphibian race.
45. The name of the character on Tiny Toon Adventures who was based on the classic Loony Toon character Sam.
47. This crappy cartoon featured a futuristic superhero that would later star in his own very own talk show.
48. The name of Johnny Quest's dog on The Adventures of Johnny Quest.
51. Scrooge McDuck's employee Fenton Crackshell could transform into this crime-fighting super-hero.
52. Goliath, Brooklyn, Demona, Xanatos and MacBeth are all characters from this Disney cartoon.
53. A segment of the cartoon Garfield and Friends, it starred Orson the Pig, Roy the Rooster and Wade the Duck among other characters.
56. The leader of the Thundercats.
57. She-Ra's nemesis on the cartoon She-Ra Princess of Power.
58. This pachyderm king starred in his own cartoon.

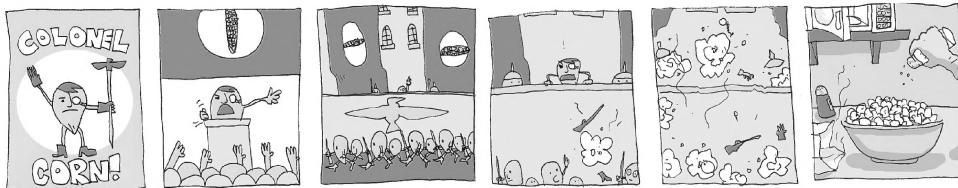
ROOMIES by Mike Winters



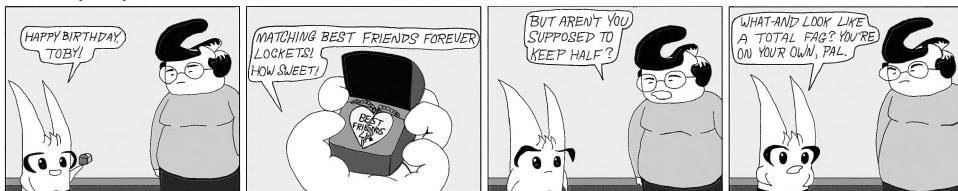
CIGARRO & CERVEJA by Tony Esteves



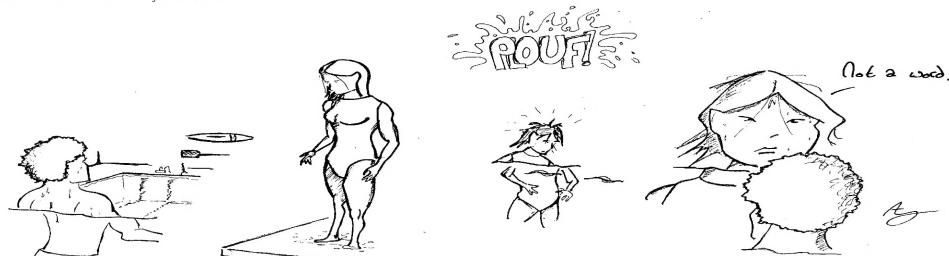
COLONEL CORN by Bill Benson



MICH MICH by Shaun Lyons



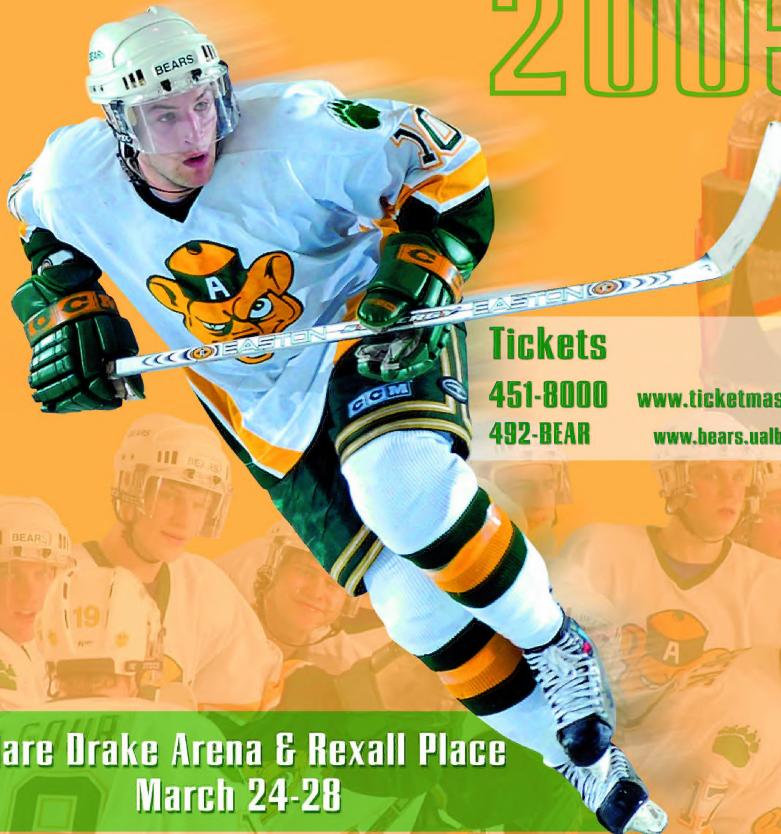
TRANSGENDER TROUBLE by Marie-Annick Jean



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